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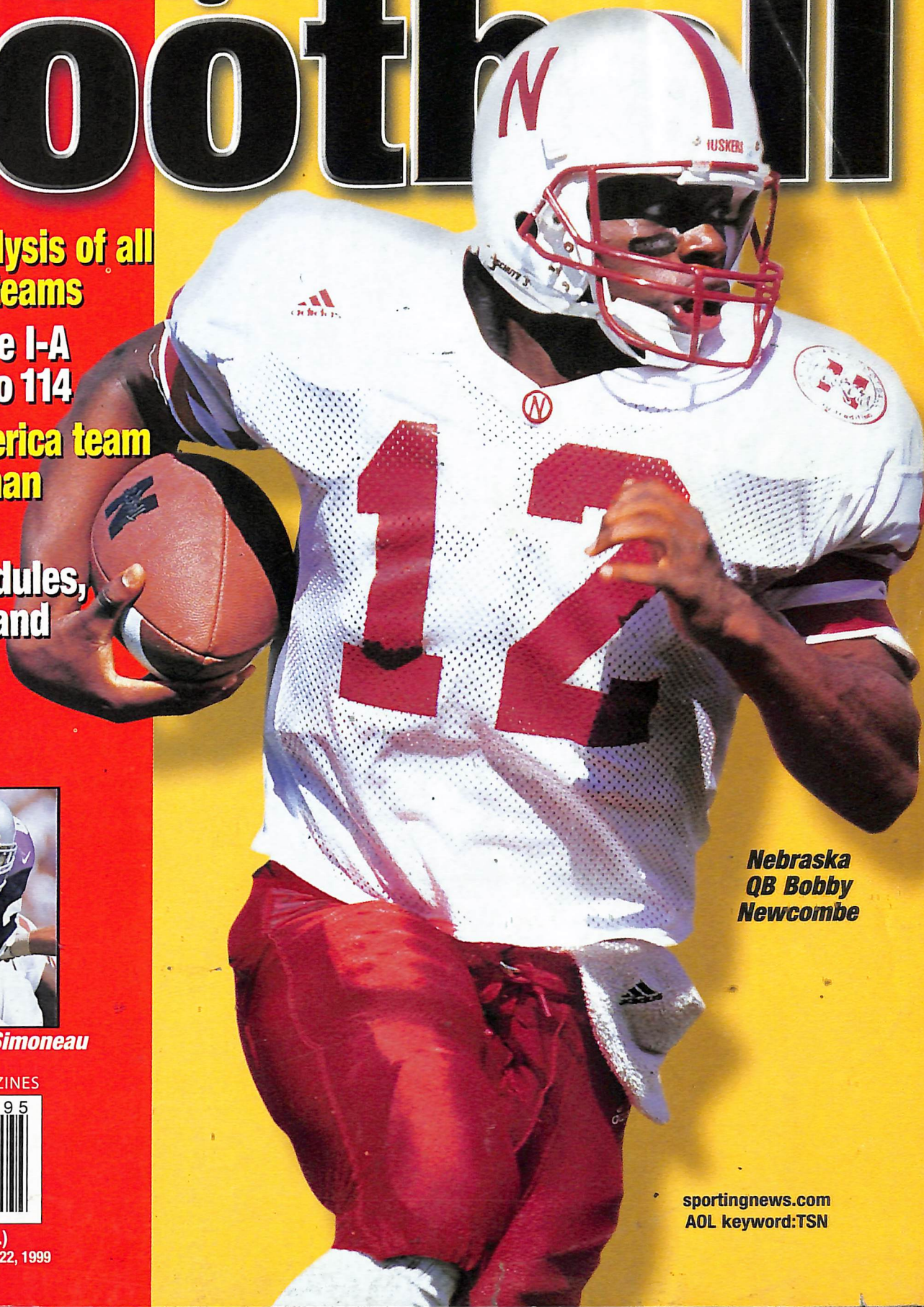


K-State LB Mark Simoneau

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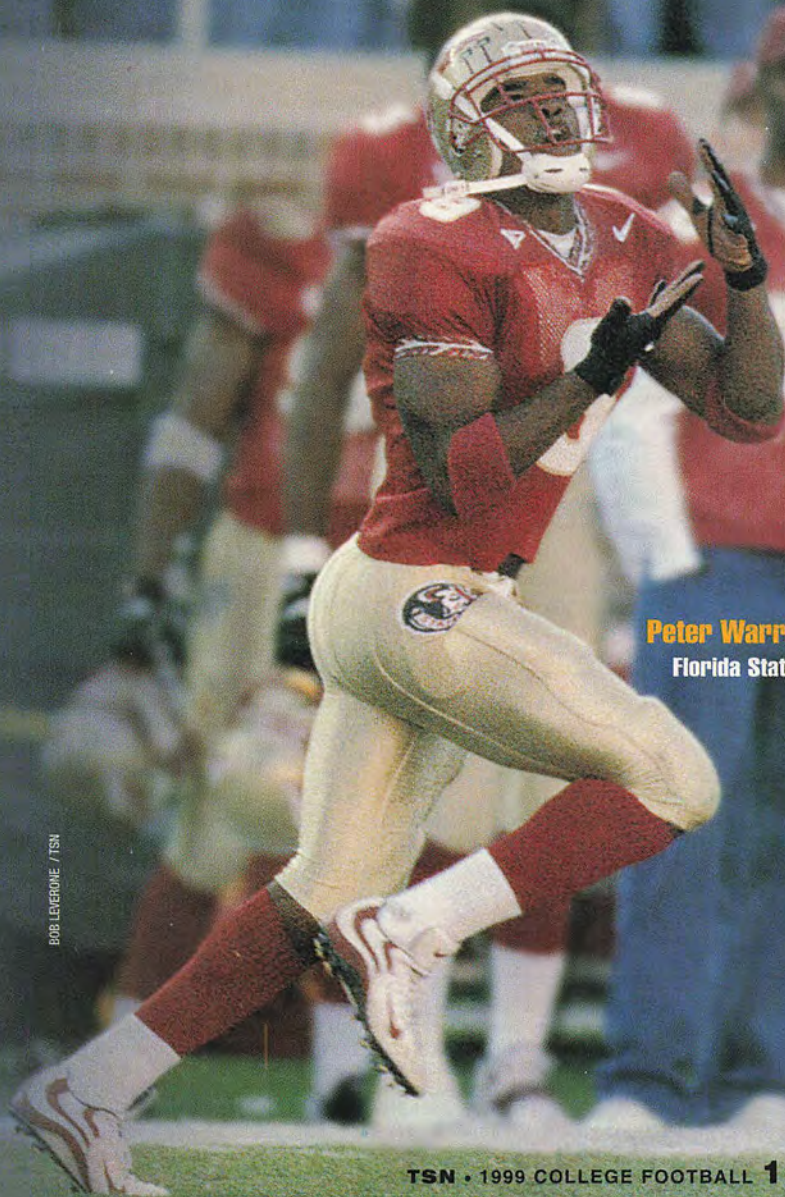
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Peter Warrick,
Florida State

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

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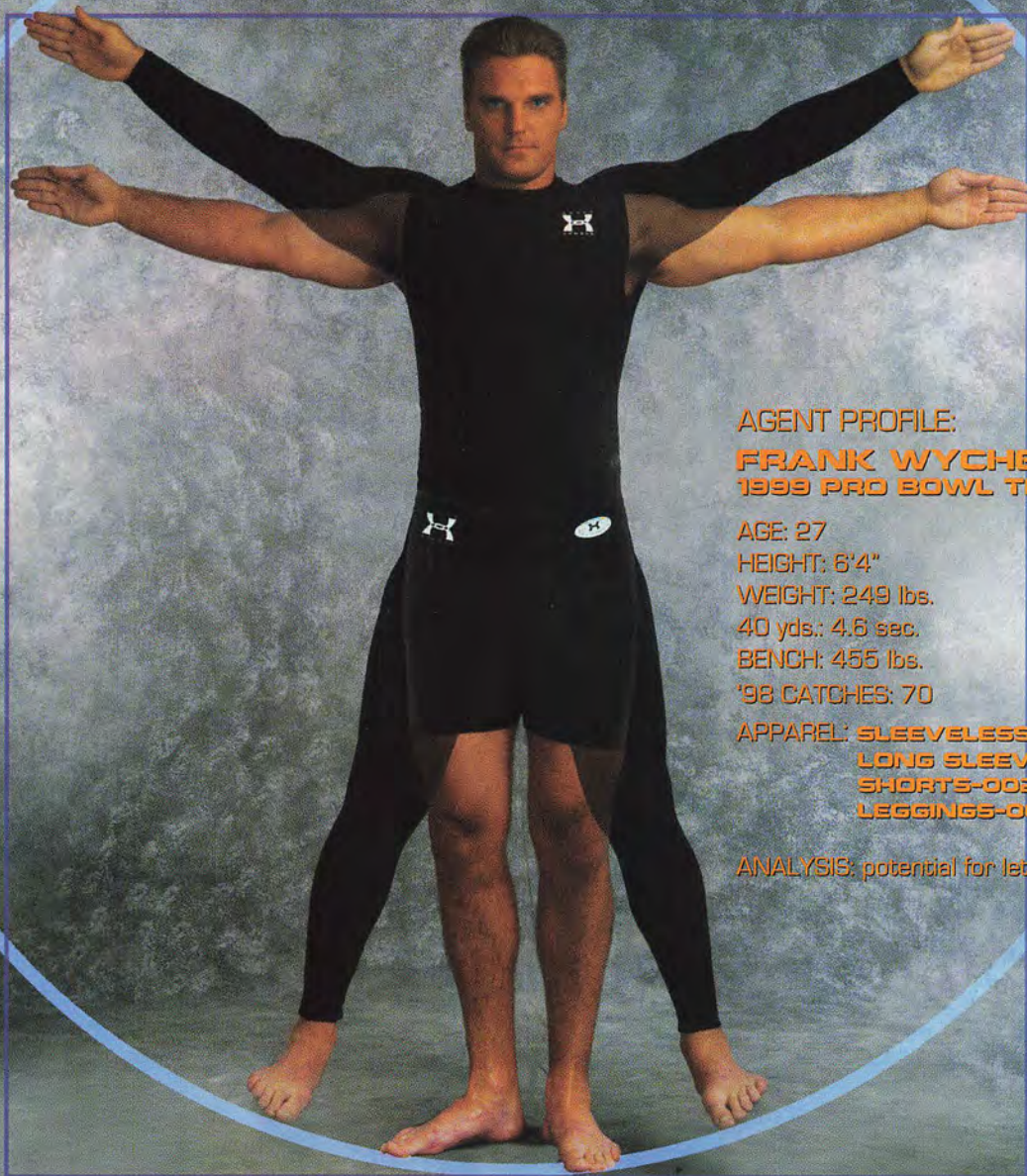
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FRANK WYCHECK
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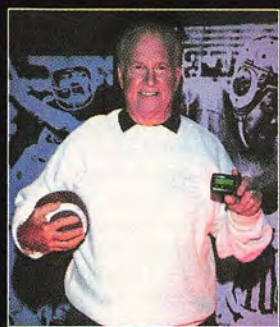
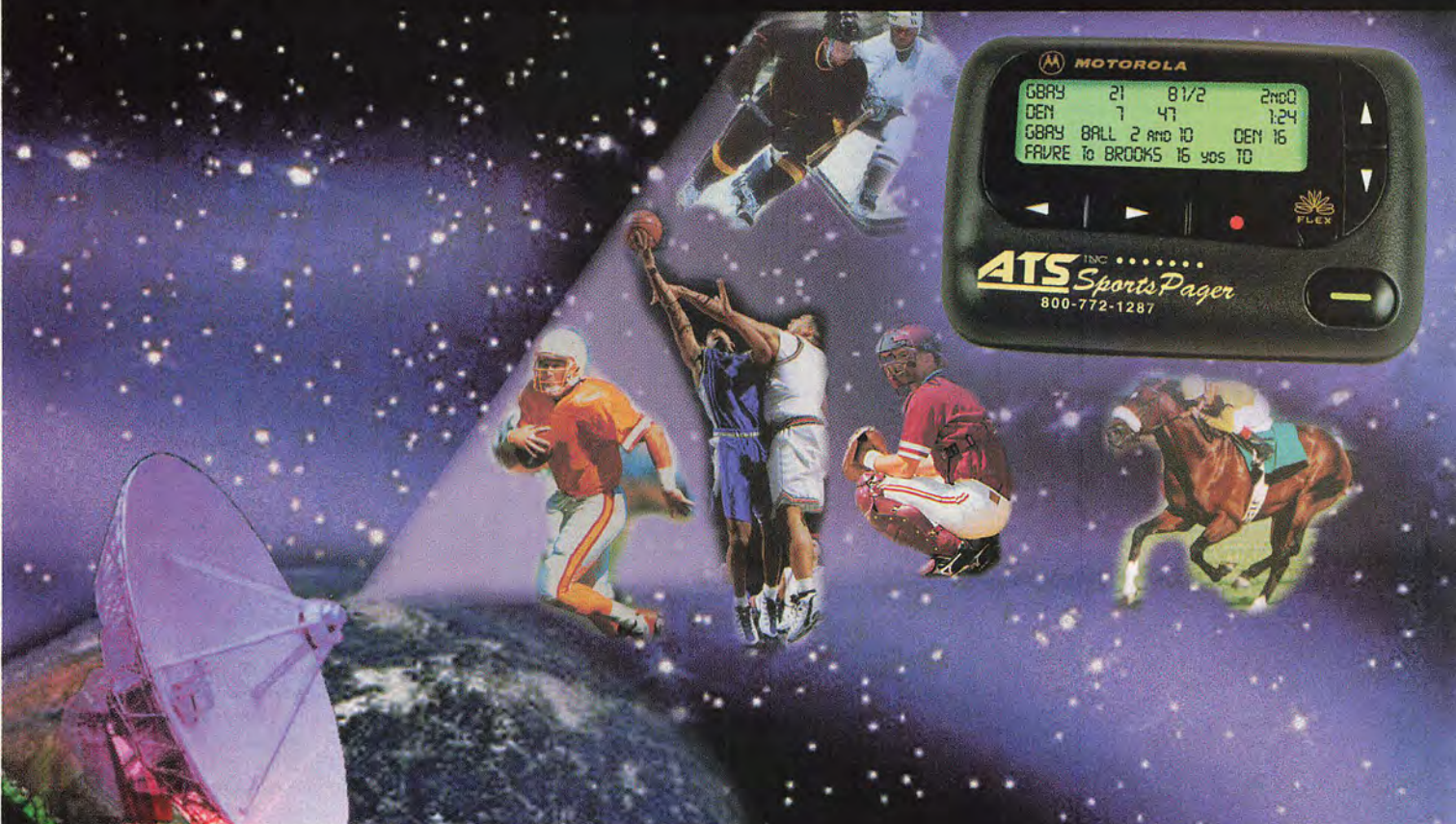
1. Penn State

Joe Paterno is celebrating his 50th season in Happy Valley. What better way to commemorate the occasion than by adding to his national championship trophy collection of two, plus four other perfect seasons? If it happens, Penn State, which returns 42 of its top 48 players, will have earned it. The Nittany Lions could be sad after a season-opening visit from Arizona, which also has national title dreams, and a September 18 trip to Miami, Fla. Still, you gotta love a schedule that features home games with Big Ten heavies Ohio State and Michigan and is Wisconsin-free. The defense, headed by linebacker LaVar Arrington, may be the nation's best if the line is able to hold its own next to end Courtney Brown. The key will be quarterback Kevin Thompson, who needs to do his best impersonation of former Michigan quarterback Brian Griese: Make the easy pass and hand off to a stable of good backs—headed by super soph Eric McCoo—who will work behind a big, veteran line. Reliable kicker Travis Forney will help make this a golden year for JoePa.

FRED VULICH FOR TSN

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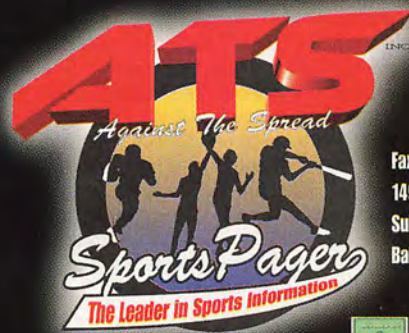
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2. Florida State

It's 12 years and counting on the Seminoles' run of Top 4 finishes in The Associated Press poll, but Florida State has just one national title (1993) to show for its record run. The 'Noles could double their total this year. Florida State is powered by nine returning starters on offense. The key will be the health of quarterback Chris Weinke, who is coming off a neck injury. Behind the protection offered by five linemen who all started last year, Weinke could be a pain in the neck throwing to Peter Warrick and handing off to Travis Minor. While 6-5, 225-pound Weinke is big enough to play defense, he will let a group of seven returning starters do that. Look for the heaviest damage to be caused by the line, led by fragile-but-ferocious nose tackle Corey Simon, and the secondary, where cornerback Mario Edwards is the king of pain. If things get close, Bobby Bowden, who may notch career win No. 300 October 23 at Clemson vs. son Tommy, can send in 6-2, 255-pound Sebastian Janikowski to kick down the door to victory with a field goal. That may be needed to get a season-ending road win at Florida. Trips to North Carolina and Virginia, and a visit from Miami, Fla., also loom.

3. Tennessee

Call Tennessee anything you want—lucky, fortunate, blessed—after last year's improbable 13-0 run that featured several narrow wins. But don't forget "national champions." It's hard to imagine the Volunteers being as, uh, lucky again, but you have to like their chances.

First, there's quarterback Tee Martin, who will work behind a line that includes three returning starters. He will hand off to now-healthy Jamal Lewis until a cache of talented but unproven wideouts develops. While the offense has questions at wideout, the defense has all the answers. Free safety Deon Grant heads an awesome secondary, and Raynoch Thompson is among the nation's top linebackers. Someone must fill middle linebacker Al Wilson's leadership void. Also, a kicker must be found. Any repeat hopes could be dashed by trips to Florida and Alabama.



Travis Henry Tennessee

4. Arizona

If the Wildcats are giddy over preseason talk of a national title, they need to cast their eyes north toward Tempe for a lesson in humility. Last year Arizona State was supposed to be a national player, but the Sun Devils were a 5-6 flop. Still, Arizona faithful have a right to dream big, thanks to the two-headed quarterback monster of Keith Smith and Ortege Jenkins, the running of Trung Canidate and a veteran line. This offense is just a few receivers short of frightening. The defense is a horror, thanks to guys who supposedly are too small or too slow. Too bad recruiting analysts don't measure heart. The Wildcats won't have to wait long to see if talk is cheap—they open at Penn State. But except for dates at UCLA and Arizona State, the schedule is kind.

5. Florida

Steve Spurrier asks his defense to do one thing: Get

the ball so the offense can get on the field. In the past, his wish was his command. But the Gators must replace their front seven, and defense architect Bob Stoops now is Oklahoma's coach. The Gators may have to outscore foes this year. Florida is equipped for it, with eight of last year's top 10 players back on the line, quarterbacks Doug



Keith Smith Arizona

Johnson and Jesse Palmer on hand, and receiver Travis Taylor and running back Earnest Graham ready to blossom. Don't fret too much for new defensive coordinator Jon Hoke, who has more talent to tinker with than most schools. Playing Tennessee, Alabama and Florida State in Gainesville also is a break for the Gators.

6. Nebraska

The Cornhuskers showed they're human last year by losing four games for the first time

since 1968. Nebraska had injury to blame. Quarterback Bobby Newcombe's season was ruined by a knee injury. I-back DeAngelo Evans, who missed the 1997 season, continued to be limited by injuries and played in only three games. A healthy Newcombe and Evans operating behind a line that returns four starters is enough to make even stoic Frank Solich force a smile. The return of seven starters on defense also is reason to grin. The secondary, headed by Mike Brown and Ralph Brown, will be among the nation's best, and the linebackers are solid. The line needs reformation, with three starters gone. The loss of kicker Kris Brown is a concern, as are games at Texas and Colorado.

7. Michigan

Wolverines fans never grow weary of singing "The Victors," which they got to shout into the Ann Arbor sky often last season by winning 10 of their last 11 games after an 0-2 start. The return of seven starters on offense and eight on defense is more music to the ears of Michigan faithful. With a great line and solid running back corps, the key on offense will be the maturation of several talented young receivers. Who will throw to them: incumbent Tom Brady or wunderkind Drew Henson? The defense is headed by end James Hall and superb linebackers Dhani Jones and Ian Gold. And don't dare try to pass against a secondary that includes three returning starters. Trips to Wisconsin and Penn State could leave Michigan feeling run down. At least Notre Dame and Ohio State visit.

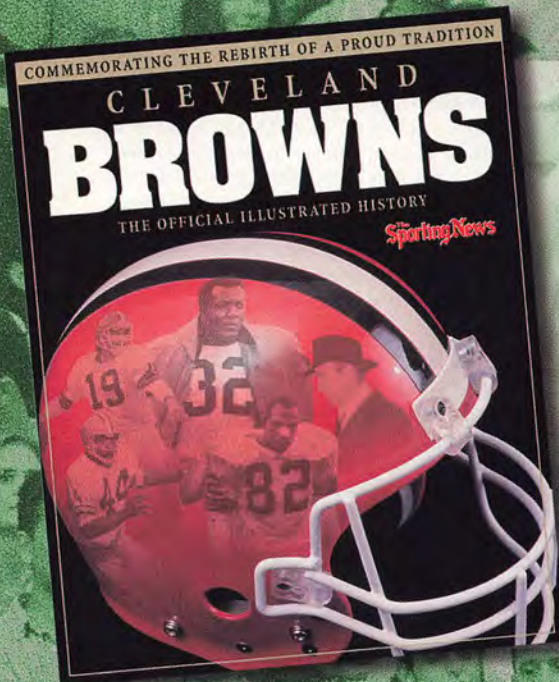
8. Texas A&M

If Aggies fans got hoarse yelling for last year's Big 12 title team, they may want to start massaging their throats for more of the same. Eight starters are back on each side of the ball. The Wrecking Crew should be up to its old tricks, thanks to a stellar line and secondary. Linebackers Warrick Holdman and Dat Nguyen must be replaced. Even though quarterback Randy McCown is back, expect a ball-control offense that will feature handoffs to Dante Hall and Ja'Mar Toombs, who may avoid a rebuilt left side of the line. The schedule is built for success, with the lone daunting games at Texas Tech, at Nebraska and at home against Texas.

9. Wisconsin

How many ways can Barry Alvarez diagram a Ron Dayne run play? Alvarez's best bet is to let Dayne ram up the middle. Why bother being fancy when your tailback weighs 253 pounds and is escorted by four veteran blockers? Dayne needs 1,717 yards to pass Texas' Ricky Williams as the NCAA Division I-A rushing leader. Dayne could break the mark before October, considering the

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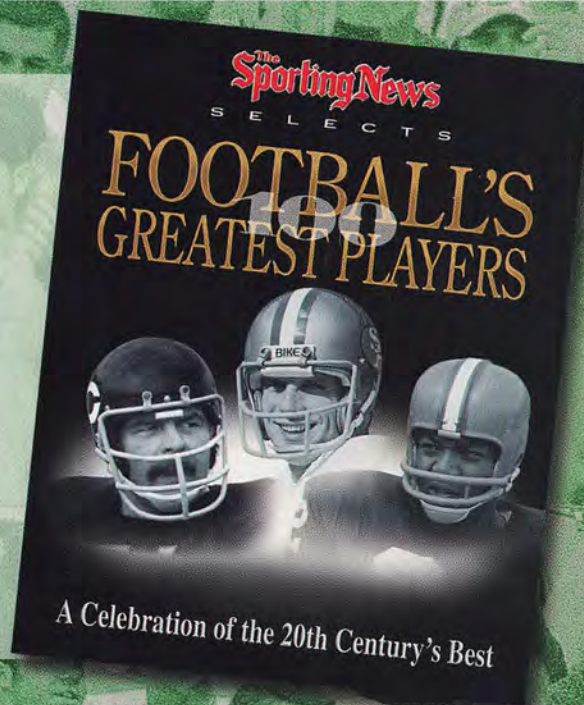
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Doug Johnson Florida

Badgers open with I-AA Murray State, Ball State and Cincinnati. With nine starters back on defense, the Badgers are thinking bigger than Dayne. Aside from finding a kicker and someone to hand off to Dayne, Wisconsin has few problems. A 2-0 start to the Big Ten season (Michigan, at Ohio State) likely would mean the Badgers again will be the big cheese of the Big Ten.

10. UCLA The Bruins are trying to get the taste of season-ending losses to Miami, Fla., and Wisconsin out of their mouth following a 20-game winning streak. They better do it quickly, with a game at Ohio State slated for September 11. By then UCLA should be settled on a replacement for just-win quarterback Cade McNown and three line starters. There's plenty of talent at tailback in DeShaun Foster and Jermaine Lewis and at wideout in Danny Farmer, Brian Polidixon and Freddie Mitchell. The defense, which is switching from a 3-4 to a 4-3 scheme, has to be improved, right? There is a new coordinator (for the third consecutive year), and eight starters are back, headed by a strong linebackers corps that includes Ryan Nece. Is that the smell of success emanating from Westwood?

11. Ohio State Nine wins, 10 wins, 11 wins—it doesn't matter to the Scarlet and Gray die-hards. They won't be happy until Ohio State wins a national title. It's 30 seasons and counting. It'll be 31 after this fall. Sure, there are enough blue-chippers to replace quarterback Joe Germaine and wideouts David Boston and Dee Miller. And quality players are in line to replace linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer and defensive backs Antoine Winfield and Damon Moore. But by the time the Buckeyes find a groove behind terrific offensive and defensive lines, it will be too late. Don't scream for coach Coop's cranium if Ohio State slips to eight wins—blame a schedule that features Miami, Fla., UCLA, Wisconsin, at Penn State, at Michigan. Is Earle Bruce in the house?

12. Colorado The touchy-feely Rick Neuheisel era is over. Now running the show is Gary Barnett, an assistant at Colorado from 1984 to '91. The former Northwestern boss will run a tighter ship than Neuheisel, whose teams seemed to lack discipline. Inheriting a veteran squad will help Barnett, whose focus will be developing a running attack that has sputtered in recent years. The return of all five starting linemen will help. It's time for backs Dwayne Cherrington, Damion

Barton and Cortlen Johnson to step up. The defense could be deadly. Just try passing against cornerbacks Darnell Wheeler and Ben Kelly; Kelly also is a dangerous return man. End Fred Jones is good, and linebacker Jashon Sykes looks great. Everyone in Boulder has circled September 25, when Colorado visits Neuheisel's Washington Huskies. If the Buffaloes survive that, along with trips to Texas Tech and Kansas State, a Big 12 title may loom.



Dante Hall Texas A&M

13. Miami, Fla. Retro is in, but Miami hasn't recaptured its 1980s form—yet. While probation still shows its effects on the Hurricanes' depth, this is a formidable club. As it was in the '80s, Miami's vice will be defense. A stellar trio of linebackers—Nate Webster, Dan Morgan and Michael

Smith—must help stiffen a unit that bent and broke often, especially against the pass, last year. The concern on offense is quarterback. Is Kenny Kelly the man? Thanks to a good line, the sophomore can be if he lets wideouts Reggie Wayne and Santana Moss make plays. With Edgerin James gone, it's important for James Jackson and Najeh Davenport to carry a big load at tailback early. Three of the Hurricanes' first five foes are Ohio State, Penn State and Florida State.

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14. Georgia Tech

Remember how Georgia Tech opened the decade? The Yellow Jackets won a share of the national title. Don't expect a bookend championship to end the 1990s, but the outlook is outstanding. First, there's quarterback Joe Hamilton, who at 5-10 is proof good things come in small packages. He will look even bigger and better throwing to star receiver Dez White. Forget about cutting Hamilton down to size—his quickness and four returning line starters will make him tough to contain. Don't forget about a cache of good running backs, too. Now, if only the defense could pull its weight. Despite ranking eighth among ACC defenses (397.5 yards a game), Tech was the league co-champion last year. A revamped staff headed by new coordinator Ted Roof, improved speed, and playmakers such as end Felipe Claybrooks and free safety Travares Tillman promise improvement. A September 11 trip to Florida State will tell Tech's tale.

15. Georgia

Now that Champ Bailey has taken his one-man show to Sundays, Saturdays in Athens belong to quarterback Quincy Carter. The sophomore may have to be a one-man show until a steady runner (Patrick Pass? Jasper Sanks? Rob Arnaud? Bruce Thornton?) and big-play receiver (Michael Greer? Reggie Brown? Durrell Robinson? Thad Parker?) emerge. At least Carter can buy time behind a deep line. On defense, a strong line and linebackers corps figure to make Saturdays fun days between the hedges, where the Bulldogs play their first four games. Save for trips to Tennessee and Georgia Tech, Georgia's schedule could help make the Dawgs a ratings hit.

16. Alabama

No offense, Alabama, but your offense hardly is recognizable. That's because it has explosive potential. The days of run, run, run, punt may be over. The Crimson Tide feature nine returning starters, including the entire line. Best yet, there are big-play makers in tailback Shaun Alexander and receivers Freddie Milons and Eric Locke. It doesn't matter who will play quarterback, incumbent Andrew Zow or hyped redshirt freshman Tyler Watts. While there is more than 3-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust to the offense, the defense may spin in place until a young secondary matures. At least there are playmakers up front in Kenny Smith, Cornelius Griffin and Kindal Moorehead. Seven home games could help the Tide roll.

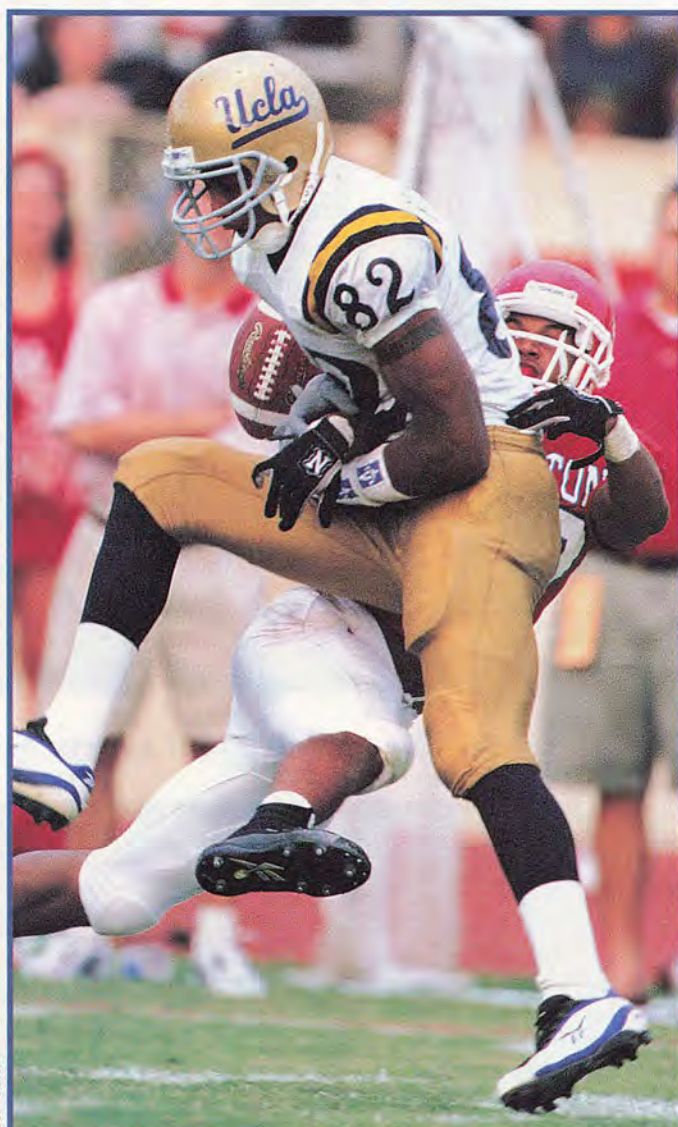


Travares Tillman
Georgia Tech

SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN

17. Texas

Everything's bigger in Texas, including expectations. While the program is on the rise under Mack Brown, Longhorns crazies should temper their gusto for 1999. All of the touted recruits signed the past two years will start making an impact, but it won't be enough. Ricky Williams and six other starters are gone from the offense, but quarterback Major Applewhite should keep things humming if four new blockers develop. There are several good tailback candidates, and Kwame Cavil is the Big 12's top returning receiver. A defense that yielded 364 yards per game should continue to improve with the return of nine starters, and Kris Stockton is the Big 12's top kicker. The schedule is kind; the Longhorns get Kansas State, Nebraska and Texas Tech at home but must finish at Texas A&M.



Brian Poli-Dixon UCLA

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

18. Arizona State

The Sun Devils are finished trying to understand how they went from national title contenders to 5-6 middle-of-the-packers last year. Why dwell on the past when the future looks bright? It is bright, thanks to talent like quarterback Ryan Kealy and running back J.R. Redmond, along with three returning line starters. Pass-catchers are needed. The defensive front seven looks good, but newcomers will be counted on in the secondary. Growing pains will be aggravated by a schedule that includes visits from Texas Tech, UCLA and Arizona, along with trips to Notre Dame, Washington, Oregon and Southern California.

19. Southern California

Hollywood may want to capture this offense on film. The key to earning a four-star rating is the development of sophomore quarterback Carson Palmer. He'll have good protection from a line that returns all five starters. Still, there is room to improve. Palmer also has one of the nation's top targets in R. Jay Soward. Miniature tailback Chad Morton is fast and strong, but also fragile. The linebackers and secondary must be reinforced, but the line is among the best in the Pac-10, thanks to tackle Ennis Davis. Illusions of grandeur could be ruined by games at Oregon, Arizona and Notre Dame. At least Arizona State and UCLA visit.

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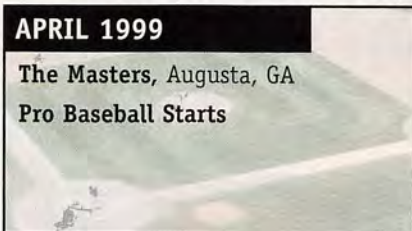
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APRIL 1999

The Masters, Augusta, GA
Pro Baseball Starts



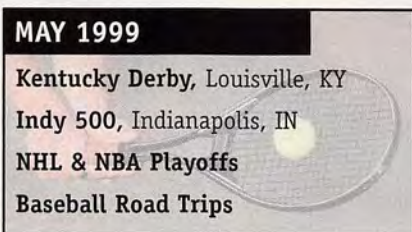
OCTOBER 1999

World Series, TBA
Pro Hockey Starts



MAY 1999

Kentucky Derby, Louisville, KY
Indy 500, Indianapolis, IN
NHL & NBA Playoffs
Baseball Road Trips



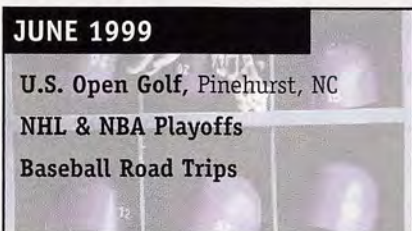
NOVEMBER 1999

Pro Basketball Starts
College Basketball Starts



JUNE 1999

U.S. Open Golf, Pinehurst, NC
NHL & NBA Playoffs
Baseball Road Trips



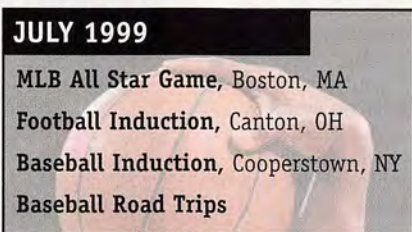
DECEMBER 1999

College Bowl Games
NFL Playoffs



JULY 1999

MLB All Star Game, Boston, MA
Football Induction, Canton, OH
Baseball Induction, Cooperstown, NY
Baseball Road Trips



JANUARY 2000

Super Bowl, Atlanta, GA
NHL All Star Game, Toronto, CAN
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, CA



AUGUST 1999

Pro Football Starts
College Football Starts
Baseball Road Trips



FEBRUARY 2000

NFL Pro Bowl, Honolulu, HI
NBA All Star Game, Oakland, CA
Daytona 500, Daytona, FL



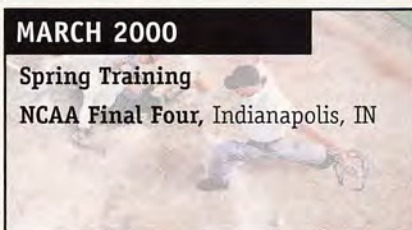
SEPTEMBER 1999

U.S. Open Tennis, Flushing Meadows, NY
Ryder Cup, Brookline, MA
MLB Playoffs
Baseball Road Trips



MARCH 2000

Spring Training
NCAA Final Four, Indianapolis, IN



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Brad Williams Notre Dame

20. Notre Dame If you walk by Touchdown Jesus, you may detect a smile. It may be faint, like Mona Lisa's, but it's there. It first became noticeable with the signing of a decorated recruiting class. But forget the future—the present provides plenty of reason to grin. Check out quarterback Jarious Jackson. Even though the Irish need to replace four linemen, Jackson is equipped to scramble for time in search of a target in a receiving corps that is longer on potential than production. All-time school leading rusher Autry Denson has dashed to the pros, but there is hope in guys like Tony Fisher, Darcey Levy and Tony Driver. It's the defense that has Irishmen beaming. The secondary, led by free safety Deke Cooper, and the line, led by end Anthony Weaver and tackle Brad Williams, are loaded with talent. The schedule is tough—trips to Michigan, Purdue and Tennessee and visits from Arizona State and Southern California.

21. Purdue Last year Drew Brees passed for Big Ten season records of 3,983 yards and 39 touchdowns. What will he do piloting an attack that features 10 returning starters? The Boilermakers, who are excited about their young runners and new two-tight end/H-back package, will need all the firepower they can muster for a schedule that includes trips to Ohio State and Michigan. That's enough to turn the stomach of a defense that must continue its knack for creating turnovers while finding big-play artists to replace two standout ends. You have to like Purdue's chances in shootouts, what with Brees' arm and Travis Dorsch's foot.

22. Brigham Young With 16 teams, the WAC was all out of whack. Too many teams and too much division juggling led to too much confusion. Eight schools split to form the Mountain West. Think of it as the old WAC, except it's better. Just like the old WAC, Brigham Young will be the dominant team. Quarterback Kevin Feterik may not measure up to the BYU standard, but he's entering his third year as the starter. He will need to be on his toes playing behind a rebuilt line and with a depleted running back corps. At least his wideouts are fast and athletic. While the offense has Feterik, the defense has middle linebacker Rob "Freight Train" Morris, who'll need to be



STEVE HEBERT FOR TSN

Mark Simoneau
Kansas State

on a constant crash course with the ball. The schedule is front-loaded for success, with four of the first five at home.

23. Kansas State

You would think fans of college football's all-time losingest program would be thrilled with an 11-2 record, but the Wildcats thought they could win them all last year. Kansas State may be at a loss for words trying to explain three losses this fall. Not only is quarterback Michael Bishop gone, but the staff has had to blend in four new coaches, including a new defensive coordinator. The defense, with seven starters back, including linebacker Mark Simoneau and safeties Jarrod Cooper and Lamar Chapman, will have to carry the load. The line also looks good. Bishop's replacement is Jonathan Beasley, who needs to get the ball to wideout Aaron Lockett and tailbacks Frank Murphy and David Allen. Allen also is the nation's top return man. Trips to Texas and Nebraska will make or break Kansas State.

24. Arkansas

After a 9-3 debut, what will Houston Nutt do for an encore? Here's an idea: Throw early and often. Nutt would be crazy not to let quarterback Clint Stoerner chuck it on every down to what is the best receivers corps in school annals. Of course, that isn't practical—or smart—especially when you have a back like Chrys Chukwuma, though his success could be abated by a line that lost four starters. The Hogs' start could be slow, with three of the first four games on the road. Last year, the first four games were at home. A speedy defense, including a veteran secondary, figures to help smooth early bumps in the start, but the kicking game may drive Hogs fans nuts.

25. Marshall Have you heard of Marshall? If not, hear this: Marshall is the only Division I school with more than 100 wins this decade (101). Only Tennessee (23) has won more games in the past two seasons than Marshall (22). The Thundering Herd's portfolio should swell with a season-opening triumph at Clemson, then Marshall will gun for its third Mid-American Conference title in three years of league membership. Be prepared to see a lot of Chad Pennington highlights on Saturday nights this fall. The senior quarterback directs an attack that features nine returning starters. One of those is Doug Chapman, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards in each of his three seasons. The defense is just as loaded—10 starters are back.

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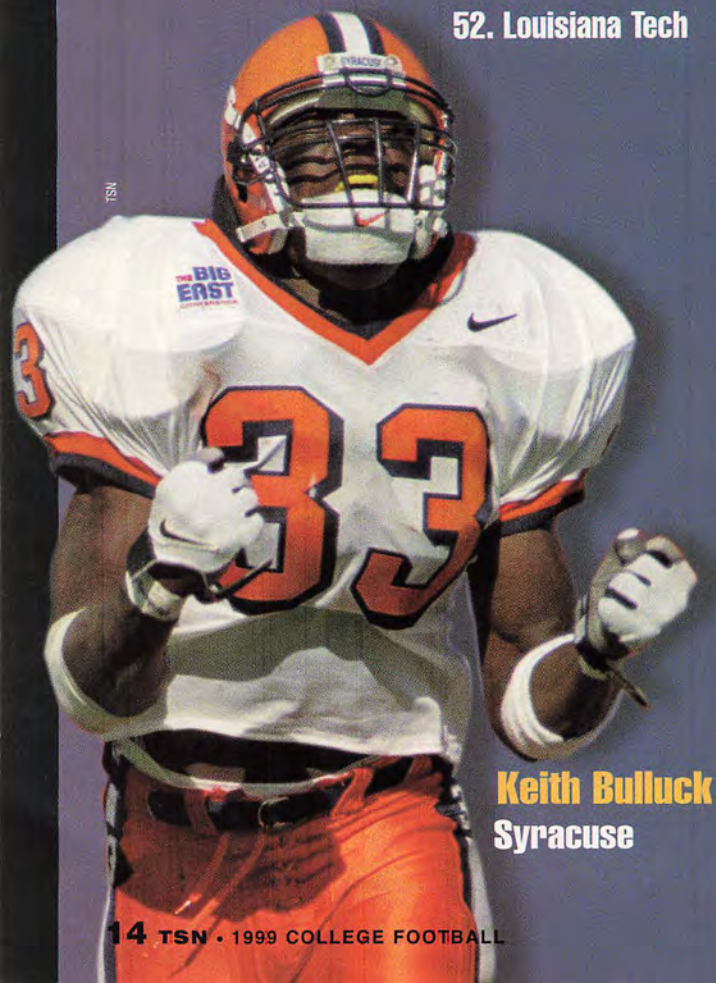
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|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 26. Louisiana State | 39. Washington | 53. Toledo | 85. Iowa State |
| 27. Michigan State | 40. West Virginia | 54. Clemson | 86. Northwestern |
| 28. North Carolina | 41. Virginia | 55. Houston | 87. Duke |
| 29. Mississippi | 42. North Carolina State | 56. Washington State | 88. Tulane |
| 30. Virginia Tech | 43. Louisville | 57. Texas Christian | 89. Ball State |
| 31. Texas Tech | 44. California | 58. Nevada | 90. Cincinnati |
| 32. Southern Mississippi | 45. Western Michigan | 59. East Carolina | 91. Utah State |
| 33. Air Force | 46. Syracuse | 60. Auburn | 92. Texas-El Paso |
| 34. Miami, Ohio | 47. Boston College | 61. Southern Methodist | 93. Navy |
| 35. Oklahoma State | 48. San Diego State | 62. Wyoming | 94. Temple |
| 36. Oregon | 49. Fresno State | 63. Rice | 95. Pittsburgh |
| 37. Mississippi State | 50. Missouri | 64. Idaho | 96. Wake Forest |
| 38. Minnesota | 51. Utah | 65. Army | 97. Memphis |
| | 52. Louisiana Tech | 66. Kentucky | 98. Maryland |
| | | 67. Oklahoma | 99. Northern Illinois |
| | | 68. Indiana | 100. San Jose State |
| | | 69. Oregon State | 101. Central Florida |
| | | 70. Colorado State | 102. Tulsa |
| | | 71. Rutgers | 103. New Mexico State |
| | | 72. Stanford | 104. New Mexico |
| | | 73. Iowa | 105. Hawaii |
| | | 74. Baylor | 106. Alabama-Birmingham |
| | | 75. UNLV | 107. North Texas |
| | | 76. Akron | 108. Ohio |
| | | 77. South Carolina | 109. Kent |
| | | 78. Illinois | 110. Arkansas State |
| | | 79. Kansas | 111. Southwestern Louisiana |
| | | 80. Central Michigan | 112. Eastern Michigan |
| | | 81. Boise State | 113. Buffalo |
| | | 82. Northeast Louisiana | 114. Middle Tennessee State |
| | | 83. Bowling Green | |
| | | 84. Vanderbilt | |



Keith Bulluck
Syracuse

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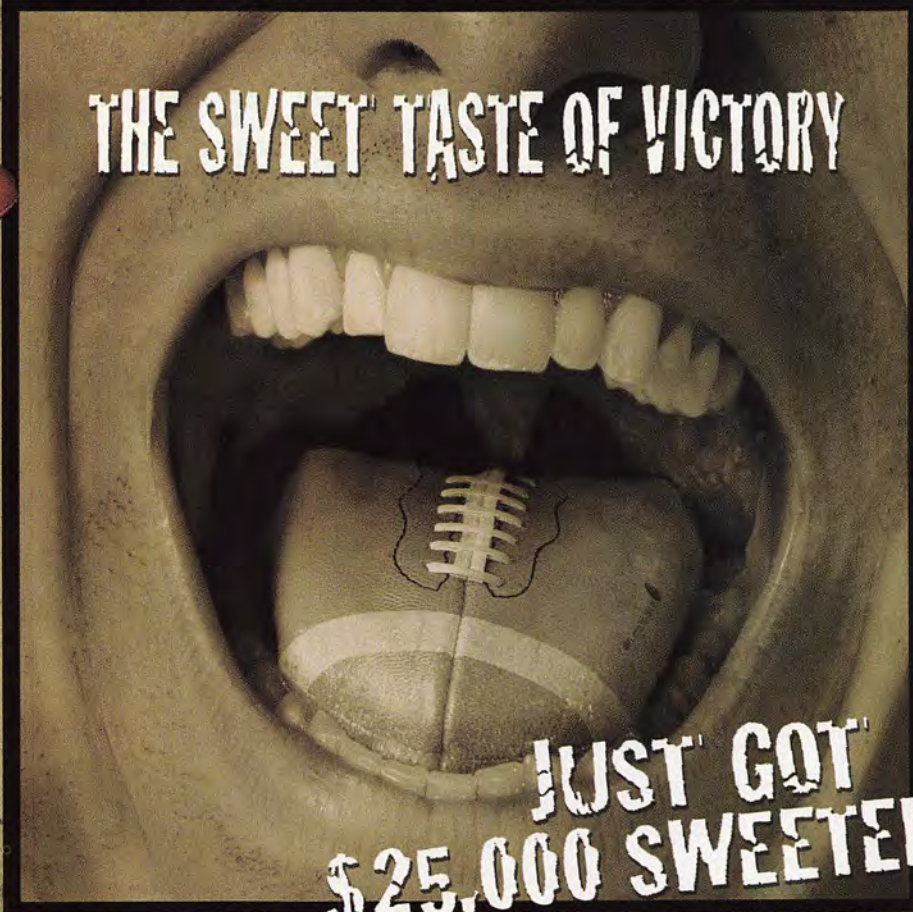
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-Quarterback-

ID #	Name	Team	Pos	Salary
3101	Young, Steve	SF	QB	4454
3102	Favre, Brett	GB	QB	4434
3103	Cunningham, Randall	MIN	QB	4352
3104	Chandler, Chris	ATL	QB	3528
3105	Testaverde, Vinny	NJY	QB	3459
3107	Manning, Peyton	IND	QB	3377
3108	Plummer, Jake	ARZ	QB	3377
3109	Stewart, Steve	TEN	QB	3310
3110	Bledsoe, Drew	NE	QB	3130
3111	Marina, Dan	MIA	QB	3116
3112	Flutie, Doug	BUF	QB	3061
3113	Johnson, Brad	WAS	QB	2845
3114	Bruneel, Mark	JAC	QB	2759
3115	Alkam, Tord	DAL	QB	2700
3116	Stewart, Randall	PIT	QB	2691
3117	Green, Trent	STL	QB	2650
3118	Bath, Charlie	DET	QB	2645
3119	Diller, Trent	TB	QB	2450
3120	Bauerlein, Steve	CAR	QB	2251
3121	Garza, Elvis	KC	QB	2240
3122	Gannon, Rich	OAK	QB	2238
3123	Mitchell, Scott	BAL	QB	2150
3124	Harbaugh, Jim	SD	QB	1908
3126	Pederson, Doug	PHI	QB	1755
3127	Banks, Tony	BAL	QB	1750
3129	Couch, Tim	CLE	QB	1750
3133	Hobart, Billy Joe	NO	QB	1650
3134	Kramer, Erik	CHI	QB	1647
3135	Kristen, Bobby	DEN	QB	2700
3150	Leaf, Ryan	SD	QB	906

-Kicker-

ID #	Name	Team	Pos	Salary
1101	Anderson, Gary	MIN	K	1978
1102	Christie, Steve	BUF	K	1959
1103	Del Greco, Al	TEN	K	1903
1104	Longwell, Ryan	GB	K	1791
1105	Cunningham, Richie	DAL	K	1777
1106	Clam, Jason	DEN	K	1777
1107	Vinateri, Adam	NE	K	1749
1108	Anderson, Marten	ATL	K	1679
1109	Hall, John	NJY	K	1609
1110	Stoyanovich, Pete	KC	K	1609
1111	Hanson, Jason	DET	K	1595
1112	Hollis, Mike	JAC	K	1511
1113	Vanderjagt, Mike	IND	K	1455
1114	Richey, Wade	SF	K	1441
1115	Johnson, Norm	PIT	K	1385
1116	Mare, Orlando	MIA	K	1385
1117	Peterson, Todd	SEA	K	1371
1118	Carney, John	SD	K	1357
1119	Duloso, Brad	NYG	K	1329
1120	Husted, Michael	TB	K	1315
1122	Kasey, John	CAR	K	1287
1123	Brien, Doug	NO	K	1273
1124	Joeger, Jeff	CHI	K	1260
1125	Stover, Matt	BAL	K	1218
1126	Wilkins, Jeff	STL	K	1190
1127	Davis, Greg	OAK	K	1145
1128	Pfeiffer, Doug	CIN	K	1092

1129	Nedney, Joe	ARZ	K	966
1130	Blanchard, Cary	WAS	K	882
1131	Bonici, Chris	PHI	K	798

-Tight End-

ID #	Name	Team	Pos	Salary
9101	Sharpe, Shannon	DEN	TE	1498
9102	Coates, Ben	NE	TE	1484
9103	Glover, Andrew	MIN	TE	1350
9104	Cleeland, Cameron	NO	TE	1284
9105	Wycheck, Frank	TEN	TE	1282
9106	Dudley, Rickey	OAK	TE	1224
9107	Santiago, OJ	ATL	TE	1181
9108	Walls, Wesley	CAR	TE	1167
9109	Chmura, Mark	GB	TE	1138
9110	Jones, Freddie	SD	TE	1124
9111	Davis, Tyronne	GB	TE	1095
9112	Gonzalez, Tony	KC	TE	1066
9113	Riemersma, Jay	BUF	TE	936
9114	Alexander, Stephen	WAS	TE	893
9115	Brady, Kyle	JAC	TE	893
9116	Smith, Irvin	CLE	TE	821
9117	McGee, Tony	CIN	TE	605
9171	Mayes, Alonzo	CHI	TE	575

-Runningback-

ID #	Name	Team	Pos	Salary
5101	Davis, Terrell	DEN	RB	3850
5102	Anderson, Jamal	ATL	RB	3746
5103	Faulk, Marshall	STL	RB	3512
5104	Taylor, Fred	JAC	RB	3421
5105	Levens, Dorsey	GB	RB	3420
5106	Heard, Garrison	SF	RB	3410
5107	Smith, Emmitt	DAL	RB	2730
5108	Smith, Robert	MIN	RB	2628
5109	Martin, Curtis	NYJ	RB	2583
5110	Wanders, Barry	DET	RB	2492
5111	Waters, Curtis	SEA	RB	2470
5112	Ennis, Ricky	CHI	RB	2450
5113	George, Eddie	TEN	RB	2220
5114	Duque, Duane	PHI	RB	2209
5115	Hicks, Skip	WAS	RB	2150
5116	Hicks, Edgerrin	IND	RB	2100
5117	Murrell, Adrian	ARZ	RB	2050
5118	Holmes, Priest	BAL	RB	1914
5119	Bettis, Jerome	PIT	RB	1850
5120	Smith, Antowain	BUF	RB	1835
5121	Dillon, Corey	CIN	RB	1824
5122	Alkott, Mike	TB	RB	1745
5123	Dunn, Warrick	TB	RB	1688
5124	Bickelshutka, Tim	CAR	RB	1650
5125	Kaufman, Napoleon	OAK	RB	1650
5126	Abdul-Jabbar, Karim	MIA	RB	1609
5127	Brown, Gary	NYG	RB	1586
5128	Stewart, James	JAC	RB	1575
5129	Hoard, Leroy	MIN	RB	1552
5130	Means, Natrone	SD	RB	1541
5131	Johnson, J.J.	MIA	RB	1500
5132	Carter, Ki-Jana	CIN	RB	1450
5133	Lana, Fred	CAR	RB	1246
5134	Lee, Amp	STL	RB	1223
5135	Fletcher, Terrell	SD	RB	1212
5136	Morris, Bob	KC	RB	1201
5137	Bennett, Donnell	KC	RB	1110

5145	Bennett, Edgar	CHI	RB	1110
5146	Allen, Terry	WAS	RB	1076
5147	Smith, Lamar	NO	RB	1042
5148	Anders, Kimble	KC	RB	986
5149	Ways, Charles	NYG	RB	906
5150	Williams, Harvey	OAK	RB	906
5151	Canter, Larry	ARZ	RB	895
5152	Barber, Tiki	NYG	RB	884
5153	Thomas, Thurman	BUF	RB	884
5154	Avery, John	MIA	RB	850
5155	Harley, June	STL	RB	850
5156	Johnson, Leon	NYJ	RB	838
5157	Garner, Charlie	PHI	RB	827
5158	Warren, Chris	DAL	RB	748
5159	Holmes, Derrick	IND	RB	725
5160	Craver, Aaron	NO	RB	714
5161	Mitchell, Brian	WAS	RB	691
5162	Kirby, Terry	CLE	RB	674
5163	Vardell, Tommy	DET	RB	680
5164	Bates, Mario	ARZ	RB	612
5165	Bennett, Brandon	CIN	RB	589
5166	Wheatley, Tyrone	NYG	RB	575

-Wide Receiver-

ID #	Name	Team	Pos	Salary
7101	Freeman, Antonio	GB	WR	3448
7102	Moss, Randy	MIN	WR	3419
7103	Moulds, Eric	BUF	WR	3270
7104	Owens, Terrell	SF	WR	3212
7105	Mathis, Terance	ATL	WR	3097
7106	Galloway, Joey	SEA	WR	2795
7107	Johnson, Keyshawn	NYJ	WR	2665
7108	Carter, Cris	MIN	WR	2622
7109	Smith, Rod	DEN	WR	2593
7110	Smith, Jimmy	JAC	WR	2521
7111	Moore, Rob	ARZ	WR	2450
7112	Moore, Herman	DET	WR	2450
7113	McCauffrey, Ed	DEN	WR	2377
7114	McDuffie, OJ	MIA	WR	2262
7115	Staley, Duane	OAK	WR	2233
7116	Martin, Tony	MIA	WR	2218
7117	Lewis, Jermaine	BAL	WR	2190
7118	Rice, Jerry	SF	WR	2150
7119	Harrison, Marvin	IND	WR	2150
7120	Engram, Bobby	CHI	WR	2118
7121	Jett, James	OAK	WR	2060
7122	McCardell, Keenan	JAC	WR	2060
7123	Scott, Darnay	CIN	WR	2060
7124	Pickens, Carl	CIN	WR	2045
7125	Muhammad, Muslin	CAR	WR	2002
7126	Chesbet, Wayne	NYJ	WR	1985
7127	Ismail, Raghib	DAL	WR	1975
7128	Shepherd, Leslie	CLE	WR	1930
7129	Johnson, Charles	PHI	WR	1916
7130	Sanders, Frank	ARZ	WR	1916
7131	Conway, Curtis	CHI	WR	1850
7132	Anthony, Roidel	TB	WR	1815
7133	Morton, Johnnie	DET	WR	1801
7134	Stokes, JJ	SF	WR	1801
7135	Alexander, Derrick	KC	WR	1772
7136	Westbrook, Michael	WAS	WR	1729
7137	Reed, Andre	BUF	WR	1714
7138	Calloway, Chris	ATL	WR	1685

7139	Glenn, Terry	NE	WR	1657
7140	Dawkins, Sean	SEA	WR	1650
7141	Rison, Andre	KC	WR	1650
7142	Gadsden, Orlando	MIA	WR	1628
7143	Ivin, Michael	DAL	WR	1613
7144	Smith, Torrence	PHI	WR	1585
7145	Bruce, Isaac	STL	WR	1540
7146	Pritchard, Mike	SEA	WR	1484
7147	Thigpen, Yancey	TEN	WR	1450
7148	Jefferson, Shann	NE	WR	1440
7149	Thomas, Lamar	MIA	WR	1426
7150	Davis, Billy	DAL	WR	1412
7151	Kael, Jake	MIN	WR	1400
7152	Proehl, Ricky	STL	WR	1397
7153	Emmanuel, Bert	TB	WR	1368
7154	Turner, Floyd	SD	WR	1325
7155	Crowell, Germane	BAL	WR	1296
7156	Hawkins, Courtney	PIT	WR	1224
7157	Hillard, Ike	NYG	WR	1210
7160	Pooler, Keith	NO	WR	1167
7161	Ward, Detric	NYJ	WR	1167
7162	Hastings, Andre	NO	WR	1095
7163	Simmons, Tony	NE	WR	1066
7164	Mills, Ernie	DAL	WR	1052
7165	Still, Bryan	SD	WR	1052
7166	Graham, Jeff	PHI	WR	1037
7167	Toomer, Ammi	NYG	WR	951
7169	Davis, Willie	TEN	WR	928
7170	Penn, Chris	CHI	WR	908
7171	Brooks, Robert	GB	WR	864
7172	Mays, Derrick	GB	WR	821
7173	Falton, Jerome	IND	WR	821
7174	Ricks, Michael	SD	WR	821
7184	Wnezuoke, Iheanyi	MIA	WR	850
7185	Carlier, Mark	CAR	WR	805

-Wide Receiver-

ID #	Name	Team	Pos	Salary
7101	Freeman, Antonio	GB	WR	3448
7102	Moss, Randy	MIN	WR	3419
7103	Moulds, Eric	BUF	WR	3270
7104	Owens, Terrell	SF	WR	3212
7105	Mathis, Terance	ATL	WR	3097
7106	Galloway, Joey	SEA	WR	2795
7107	Johnson, Keyshawn	NYJ	WR	2665
7108	Carter, Cris	MIN	WR	2622
7109	Smith, Rod	DEN	WR	2593
7110	Smith, Jimmy	JAC	WR	2521
7111	Moore, Rob	ARZ	WR	2450
7112	Moore, Herman	DET	WR	2450
7113	McCauffrey, Ed	DEN	WR	2377
7114	McDuffie, OJ	MIA	WR	2262
7115	Staley, Duane	OAK	WR	2233
7116	Martin, Tony	MIA	WR	2218
7117	Lewis, Jermaine	BAL	WR	2190
7118	Rice, Jerry	SF	WR	2150
7119	Harrison, Marvin	IND	WR	2150
7120	Engram, Bobby	CHI	WR	2118
7121	Jett, James	OAK	WR	2060
7122	McCardell, Keenan	JAC	WR	2060
7123	Scott, Darnay	CIN	WR	2060
7124	Pickens, Carl	CIN	WR	2045
7125	Muhammad, Muslin	CAR	WR	2002
7126	Chesbet, Wayne	NYJ	WR	1985
7127	Ismail, Raghib	DAL	WR	1975
7128	Shepherd, Leslie	CLE	WR	1930
7129	Johnson, Charles	PHI	WR	1916
7130	Sanders, Frank	ARZ	WR	1916
7131	Conway, Curtis	CHI	WR	1850
7132	Anthony, Roidel	TB	WR	1815
7133	Morton, Johnnie	DET	WR	1801
7134	Stokes, JJ	SF	WR	1801
7135	Alexander, Derrick	KC	WR	1772
7136	Westbrook, Michael	WAS	WR	1729
7137	Reed, Andre	BUF	WR	1714
7138	Calloway, Chris	ATL	WR	1685

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Rosters

Football Rosters consist of 30 positions, 20 active players which must correspond with specified positions, and 10 bench players which may be comprised of any position.

The combined salaries of the 20 active players must add up to less than or equal to \$35,000,000.

The salary cap and position distribution rules do not apply for bench players until they are activated to the active roster.

TSN PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Offense

Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Class	School
WR	Peter Warrick	6-0	190	Sr.	Florida State
WR	R. Jay Soward	5-11	175	Sr.	So. California
TE	Ibn Green	6-2	225	Sr.	Louisville
T	Chris McIntosh	6-7	307	Sr.	Wisconsin
T	Chad Clifton	6-6	320	Sr.	Tennessee
G	Richard Mercier	6-3	290	Sr.	Miami, Fla.
G	Cosey Coleman	6-5	315	Jr.	Tennessee
C	Rob Riti	6-3	285	Sr.	Missouri
QB	Joe Hamilton	5-10	189	Sr.	Georgia Tech
RB	Jamal Lewis	6-0	225	Jr.	Tennessee
RB	Ron Dayne	5-10	253	Sr.	Wisconsin
K	Sebastian Janikowski	6-2	255	Jr.	Florida State

Defense

Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Class	School
E	Corey Moore	6-0	218	Sr.	Virginia Tech
T	Corey Simon	6-4	275	Sr.	Florida State
T	Chris Hovan	6-3	285	Sr.	Boston College
E	Courtney Brown	6-5	265	Sr.	Penn State
OLB	LaVar Arrington	6-3	233	Jr.	Penn State
ILB	Rob Morris	6-2	250	Sr.	Brigham Young
OLB	Sekou Sanyika	6-4	240	Sr.	California
CB	Mario Edwards	6-2	195	Sr.	Florida State
CB	Ahmed Plummer	6-0	190	Sr.	Ohio State
FS	Deon Grant	6-3	205	Jr.	Tennessee
SS	Brian Urlacher	6-4	235	Sr.	New Mexico
P	Shane Lechler	6-2	220	Sr.	Texas A&M
KR	David Allen	5-9	185	Jr.	Kansas State

Fullbacks

1. Ja'Mar Toombs	6-1	260	So.	Texas A&M
2. Kevin McDougal	6-0	205	Sr.	Colorado State
3. Matt Keller	6-0	238	Sr.	Ohio State
4. Derek Lagway	6-1	235	Jr.	Baylor
5. Ricky Brown	6-0	222	Sr.	Texas

Wide receivers

1. Peter Warrick	6-0	190	Sr.	Florida State
2. R. Jay Soward	5-11	175	Sr.	Southern California
3. Travis Taylor	6-1	188	Jr.	Florida
4. Plaxico Burress	6-6	229	Jr.	Michigan State
5. Dez White	6-1	214	Jr.	Georgia Tech
6. Anthony Lucas	6-3	196	Sr.	Arkansas
7. Danny Farmer	6-4	210	Sr.	UCLA
8. Dennis Northcutt	5-11	172	Sr.	Arizona
9. Sherrod Gideon	6-0	176	Sr.	Southern Mississippi
10. Khori Ivy	6-2	190	Sr.	West Virginia
11. Reggie Wayne	6-2	190	Jr.	Miami, Fla.
12. Arnold Jackson	5-8	160	Sr.	Louisville
13. Troy Walters	5-8	170	Sr.	Stanford
14. Brian Poli-Dixon	6-5	210	Jr.	UCLA
15. Cedrick Wilson	5-10	175	Jr.	Tennessee
16. Latief Grim	6-0	185	Jr.	Pittsburgh
17. Kwame Cavil	6-2	200	Jr.	Texas
19. Randall Lane	6-1	210	Sr.	Purdue
20. Tony Hartley	6-0	190	Sr.	Oregon

Tight ends

1. Ibn Green	6-2	225	Sr.	Louisville
2. Daniel Franks	6-6	245	Jr.	Miami, Fla.
3. Anthony Becht	6-6	265	Sr.	West Virginia
4. Marcellus Rivers	6-4	225	So.	Oklahoma State
5. Todd Heap	6-5	230	So.	Arizona State
6. Tim Stratton	6-4	234	So.	Purdue
7. Jabari Holloway	6-4	258	Jr.	Notre Dame
8. Antoine Harris	6-4	245	Jr.	Southern California
9. Alge Crumpler	6-3	260	Jr.	North Carolina
10. Joe Dean Davenport	6-7	257	Sr.	Arkansas

Centers

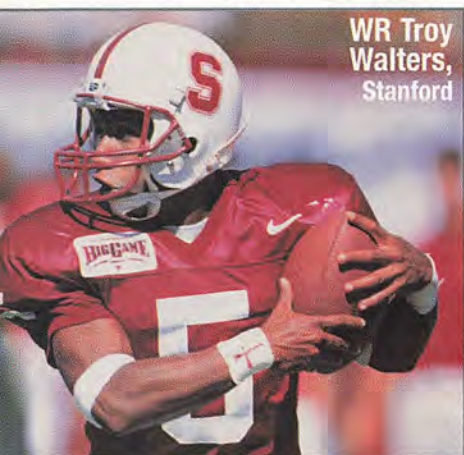
1. Rob Riti	6-3	285	Sr.	Missouri
2. Casey Rabach	6-5	287	Jr.	Wisconsin
3. Mike McLaughlin	6-4	305	Sr.	Stanford
4. Dominic Raiola	6-2	295	So.	Nebraska
5. Ben Hamilton	6-5	271	Jr.	Minnesota
6. Mike Malano	6-2	300	Sr.	San Diego State
7. Ty Wise	6-2	280	Sr.	Miami, Fla.
8. Terrence Anderson	5-11	279	Sr.	Navy
9. Zac Zedalis	6-3	298	Jr.	Florida
10. Spencer Riley	6-3	305	Sr.	Tennessee

All-purpose quarterbacks

1. Joe Hamilton	5-10	189	Sr.	Georgia Tech
2. Keith Smith	5-11	202	Sr.	Arizona
3. Tee Martin	6-3	215	Sr.	Tennessee
4. Romaro Miller	6-1	190	Jr.	Mississippi
5. Jarious Jackson	6-1	228	Sr.	Notre Dame
6. Ronald Curry	6-2	205	So.	North Carolina
7. Mike Moschetti	6-0	195	Sr.	Colorado
8. Bobby Newcombe	6-0	195	Jr.	Nebraska
9. Antwaan Randle El	5-10	177	Sr.	Indiana
10. Tony Lindsay	6-2	190	Jr.	Oklahoma State
11. David Garrard	6-3	240	So.	East Carolina
12. Ortege Jenkins	6-2	224	Jr.	Arizona

Running backs

1. Jamal Lewis	6-0	225	Jr.	Tennessee
2. Ron Dayne	5-10	253	Sr.	Wisconsin
3. Michael Wiley	6-0	195	Sr.	Ohio State
4. Trung Canidate	5-11	199	Sr.	Arizona
5. Travis Prentice	6-2	228	Sr.	Miami, Ohio
6. Shaun Alexander	6-1	205	Sr.	Alabama
7. Travis Minor	6-1	190	Jr.	Florida State
8. Ricky Williams	5-9	195	Jr.	Texas Tech
9. J.R. Redmond	6-0	215	Sr.	Arizona State
10. Kevin Brown	6-2	218	Jr.	Washington State
11. Reuben Droughns	6-0	210	Sr.	Oregon
12. Thomas Jones	5-10	205	Sr.	Virginia
13. Mike Anderson	6-2	220	Sr.	Utah
14. DeShaun Foster	6-1	205	So.	UCLA
15. Darren Davis	5-8	190	Sr.	Iowa State
16. Chrys Chukwuma	6-1	225	Sr.	Arkansas
17. Dante Hall	5-8	190	Sr.	Texas A&M
18. Deuce McAllister	6-2	215	Jr.	Mississippi
19. Rondell Mealey	6-0	205	Sr.	Louisiana State
20. Derrick Nix	6-1	223	So.	Southern Mississippi

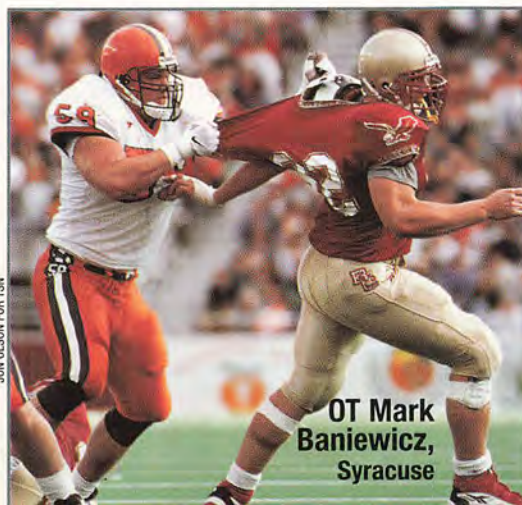


WR Troy Walters, Stanford

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

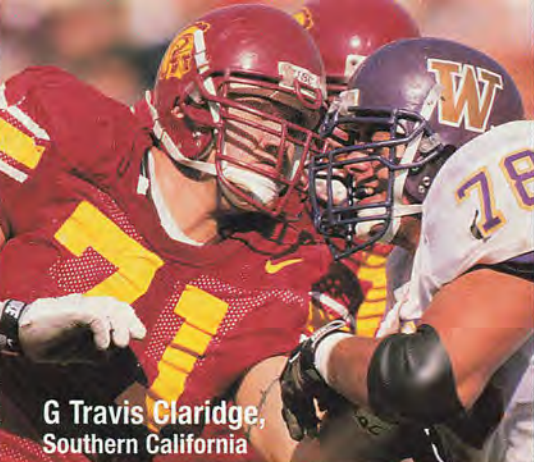
Quarterbacks

1. Chris Redman	6-3	215	Sr.	Louisville
2. Chad Pennington	6-3	220	Sr.	Marshall
3. Tim Rattay	6-1	200	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
4. Quincy Carter	6-2	220	So.	Georgia
5. Drew Brees	6-1	212	Jr.	Purdue
6. Chris Weinke	6-5	225	Jr.	Florida State
7. Jamie Barette	6-0	190	Sr.	North Carolina State
8. Marc Bulger	6-3	210	Sr.	West Virginia
9. Clint Stoerner	6-2	220	Sr.	Arkansas
10. Todd Husak	6-3	210	Sr.	Stanford
11. Doug Johnson	6-2	217	Sr.	Florida
12. Major Applewhite	6-1	195	So.	Texas
13. Kevin Feterik	6-0	190	Sr.	Brigham Young
14. Ryan Kealy	6-2	205	Jr.	Arizona State
15. Jason McKinley	6-3	217	Jr.	Houston
16. Tim Lester	6-1	202	Sr.	Western Michigan
17. Jay Stoner	6-1	201	Jr.	Wyoming
18. Mike McMahon	6-3	215	So.	Rutgers



OT Mark Baniewicz, Syracuse

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G Travis Claridge,
Southern California

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Guards

1. Richard Mercier	6-3	290	Sr.	Miami, Fla.
2. Cosey Coleman	6-5	315	Jr.	Tennessee
3. Rob Murphy	6-5	300	Sr.	Ohio State
4. Jason Whitaker	6-5	300	Sr.	Florida State
5. Travis Claridge	6-6	310	Sr.	So. California
6. Terrence Metcalf	6-3	291	So.	Mississippi
7. Noel LaMontagne	6-5	302	Sr.	Virginia
8. Austin Adami	6-3	300	Sr.	So. Methodist
9. Adam Davis	6-3	285	Sr.	Oklahoma State
10. Curtis Lowery	6-5	325	Sr.	Texas Tech

Offensive tackles

1. Chris McIntosh	6-7	307	Sr.	Wisconsin
2. Chad Clifton	6-6	320	Sr.	Tennessee
3. Marvel Smith	6-6	300	Jr.	Arizona State
4. Jeff Backus	6-6	288	Jr.	Michigan
5. Mark Baniewicz	6-6	272	Sr.	Syracuse
6. Chris Samuels	6-6	294	Sr.	Alabama
7. Ross Brannon	6-8	300	Jr.	Florida State
8. Jon Carman	6-8	335	Sr.	Georgia Tech
9. John Blick	6-6	314	Sr.	Penn State
10. Colin Westrich	6-6	295	Sr.	Toledo

Defensive tackles

1. Corey Simon (nt)	6-4	275	Sr.	Florida State
2. Chris Hovan	6-3	285	Sr.	Boston College
3. Jabari Issa (nt)	6-6	295	Sr.	Washington
4. Darwin Walker	6-3	290	Sr.	Tennessee
5. Jerry DeLoach	6-4	305	Sr.	California
6. Gerard Warren	6-4	303	So.	Florida
7. Jerry Johnson	6-2	280	Sr.	Florida State
8. Jeff Boyle	6-1	280	Jr.	Wyoming
9. Rob Renes (nt)	6-1	288	Sr.	Michigan
10. Jimmy Brumbaugh	6-1	294	Sr.	Auburn
11. Mao Tosi	6-6	270	Sr.	Idaho

Defensive ends

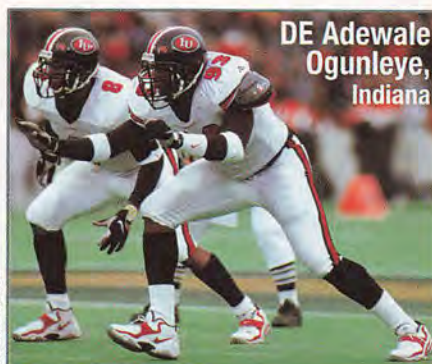
1. Corey Moore	6-0	218	Sr.	Virginia Tech
2. Courtney Brown	6-5	265	Sr.	Penn State
3. Roland Seymour	6-4	264	Jr.	Florida State
4. Andre Carter	6-4	250	Jr.	California
5. Shaun Ellis	6-4	275	Sr.	Tennessee
6. Adalius Thomas	6-4	252	Sr.	So. Mississippi
7. Leonardo Carson	6-3	282	Sr.	Auburn
8. Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila	6-4	235	Sr.	San Diego State
9. Darren Howard	6-4	270	Sr.	Kansas State
10. Lamont Bryant	6-3	260	Sr.	Notre Dame
12. Brian Young	6-4	274	Sr.	Texas-El Paso
13. Aaron Humphrey	6-3	255	Sr.	Texas
14. Justin Smith	6-5	267	So.	Missouri
15. Adewale Ogunleye	6-5	260	Sr.	Indiana
16. Robaire Smith	6-5	269	Sr.	Michigan State
17. Chris Combs	6-6	275	Sr.	Duke
18. Kyle Vanden Bosch	6-4	270	Jr.	Nebraska
19. John Engelberger	6-4	258	Sr.	Virginia Tech

Inside linebackers

1. Rob Morris	6-2	250	Sr.	Brigham Young
2. Brandon Short	6-3	246	Sr.	Penn State
3. Marcus Bell	6-2	231	Sr.	Arizona
4. Brandon Spoon	6-2	240	Sr.	North Carolina
5. Kenyatta Wright	6-1	245	Sr.	Oklahoma State
6. Jamie Winborn	6-0	232	So.	Vanderbilt
7. Craig Thorstenson	6-2	245	Sr.	Air Force
8. Peter Sirmon	6-2	245	Sr.	Oregon
9. Matt Beck	6-4	230	Sr.	California
10. Lester Towns	6-3	240	Sr.	Washington
11. T.J. Slaughter	6-2	238	Sr.	So. Mississippi
12. Barrin Simpson	5-11	221	Sr.	Mississippi State
13. Nate Webster	6-0	220	Jr.	Miami, Fla.
14. Jason Simonton	5-11	235	Sr.	So. Methodist
15. Travis Carroll	6-4	226	Jr.	Alabama
16. Jeff Kerr	6-4	230	Sr.	East Carolina

Outside linebackers

1. LaVar Arrington	6-3	233	Jr.	Penn State
2. Sekou Sanyika	6-4	240	Sr.	California
3. Raynoch Thompson	6-3	217	Sr.	Tennessee
4. Na'il Diggs	6-4	235	Jr.	Ohio State
5. Byron Thweatt	6-2	230	Jr.	Virginia
6. Keith Bulluck	6-3	218	Sr.	Syracuse
7. Roylin Bradley	6-1	221	Jr.	Texas A&M
8. Orantes Grant	6-1	222	Sr.	Georgia
9. Jashon Sykes	6-3	225	So.	Colorado
10. Rick Crowell	6-3	235	Sr.	Colorado State
11. Mark Simoneau	6-0	240	Sr.	Kansas State
12. Kautai Olevao	6-2	240	Jr.	Utah
13. John Abraham	6-4	247	Sr.	South Carolina
14. Dustin Cohen	6-4	224	Sr.	Miami, Ohio



DE Adewale Ogunleye,
Indiana

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Strong safeties

1. Brian Urlacher	6-4	235	Sr.	New Mexico
2. Tim Smith	6-4	230	Sr.	Stanford
3. Jarrod Cooper	6-1	205	Jr.	Kansas State
4. Tyrone Carter	5-9	184	Sr.	Minnesota
5. Derrick Gibson	6-2	200	Jr.	Florida State
6. Reggie Hunt	6-0	210	Sr.	Texas Christian

Free safeties

1. Deon Grant	6-3	205	Jr.	Tennessee
2. Gary Berry	6-0	195	Sr.	Ohio State
3. Pedro Cirino	5-11	191	Sr.	Boston College
4. Robert Carswell	6-0	208	Jr.	Clemson
5. Travares Tillman	6-2	190	Sr.	Georgia Tech
6. Kenoy Kennedy	6-1	195	Sr.	Arkansas
7. Rogers Beckett	6-3	205	Sr.	Marshall
8. Deke Cooper	6-2	219	Sr.	Notre Dame

Cornerbacks

1. Mario Edwards	6-2	195	Sr.	Florida State
2. Ahmed Plummer	6-0	190	Sr.	Ohio State
3. Dwayne Goodrich	6-0	185	Sr.	Tennessee
4. David Macklin	5-9	192	Sr.	Penn State



LB Brandon Spoon,
North Carolina

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

5. Damen Wheeler	5-10	175	Sr.	Colorado
6. Jamar Fletcher	5-10	167	So.	Wisconsin
7. Brian Gray	6-2	210	Sr.	Brigham Young
8. Ralph Brown	5-10	180	Sr.	Nebraska
9. Leonard Myers	6-0	175	Jr.	Miami, Fla.
10. Lloyd Harrison	5-11	193	Sr.	North Carolina St.
11. Gary Baxter	6-1	198	Jr.	Baylor
12. Mark Roman	6-0	187	Sr.	Louisiana State
13. Bennie Alexander	5-9	175	So.	Florida
14. Antuan Simmons	5-11	185	Jr.	So. California
15. Robbie Duncan	5-9	190	Sr.	Wyoming

Punters

1. Shane Lechler	6-2	220	Sr.	Texas A&M
2. Brian Schmitz	6-0	165	Sr.	North Carolina
3. John Baker	6-3	212	Sr.	North Texas
4. Stephen Baker	5-11	186	So.	Arizona State
5. Dave Zastudil	6-4	220	So.	Ohio
6. Kevin Stemke	6-2	186	Jr.	Wisconsin
7. Jeff Walker	5-11	211	Sr.	Mississippi State
8. Jimmy Kibble	5-10	184	Sr.	Virginia Tech
9. Kyle Atteberry	6-0	174	Sr.	Baylor
10. Deone Horinek	6-2	215	Jr.	Colorado State

Kickers

1. Sebastian Janikowski	6-2	255	Jr.	Florida State
2. Nathan Villegas	5-9	165	Sr.	Oregon
3. Ryan White	5-10	183	So.	Memphis
4. Kris Stockton	5-9	185	Jr.	Texas
5. Shayne Graham	6-0	190	Sr.	Virginia Tech
6. Travis Forney	5-9	161	Sr.	Penn State
7. Paul Edinger	5-10	168	Sr.	Michigan State
8. Owen Pochman	6-0	160	Jr.	Brigham Young
9. Sims Lenhardt	5-11	185	Sr.	Duke
10. Brad Bohn	5-7	177	Jr.	Utah State

Return men

1. David Allen	5-9	185	Jr.	Kansas State
2. John Capel	5-11	163	So.	Florida
3. Peter Warrick	6-0	190	Sr.	Florida State
4. Joe Walker	5-10	195	Jr.	Nebraska
5. Ben Kelly	5-10	185	Jr.	Colorado
6. Nick Davis	5-10	174	So.	Wisconsin
7. Joe Jarzynka	5-7	175	Sr.	Washington
8. Damon Gourdine	5-7	160	Sr.	San Diego State
9. Deltha O'Neal	5-11	190	Sr.	California
10. R. Jay Soward	5-11	175	Sr.	So. California



Ron Dayne, Wisconsin

The HEISMAN HYPE

Here is our early look at the favorites for college football's most prestigious award

1. Chris Weinke, QB, Florida State

The Seminoles are loaded for a national title run, but it's vital that Weinke remain healthy following last year's neck injury. The junior has many weapons to make himself look good, plus the line is great. Weinke needs a signature win to boost his cause, which could come November 20 at Florida.

2. Tee Martin, QB, Tennessee

The senior, who will work with a more expansive playbook this fall, will benefit from a splendid running game and a strong line. His hopes will rest with the development of an unproven wideout corps. If no one is open, look for Martin to rip off some big gainers.

3. Ron Dayne, RB, Wisconsin

The last time we saw Dayne, he was shredding UCLA for 246 yards rushing in the Rose Bowl. His already-big profile will be augmented if he gains another 1,717 yards to become the all-time Division I-A rushing leader. But will the Badgers be able to run the option and pass well enough to keep defenses honest?

4. LaVar Arrington, LB, Penn State

He isn't on this list just so there is a defensive player included. Just ask those who saw him leap over an Illinois lineman in a single bound and cold-cock an unsuspecting running back last fall. The junior is the best defender on the nation's best defense.

5. Chad Pennington, QB, Marshall

Don't laugh. His fourth year as a starter may end up being his best, thanks to a bevy of returning talent. Plus, Pennington has a leg up on the competition in the hype department with his own website: herdqb.com. Look for the hits to multiply if Pennington helps Marshall secure a perfect season.

6. Chris Redman, QB, Louisville

With an improved defense, the Cardinals could be this year's Tulane. Even if Louisville doesn't go 12-0, the mature offense will fly with Redman at the controls. He passed for 4,042 yards and 29 TDs last year as a junior.

7. Drew Brees, QB, Purdue

It was impossible not to be blown away by Brees' Big Ten record-setting 39 TD passes last year. The junior could hit the 45 mark, thanks to increased confidence, an expanded playbook and a lot of returning talent. Still, a win over at least one Big Ten heavyweight is required.

8. Peter Warrick, WR, Florida State

He returned for his senior year because he wants a national championship ring. If that happens, Warrick may be overshadowed by the man who throws to him, Chris Weinke. Remember, since 1970 only three receivers have won the Heisman: 1972, Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska; 1987, Tim Brown, Notre Dame; and 1991, Desmond Howard, Michigan.

9. Jamal Lewis, RB, Tennessee

With 497 yards rushing through four games last year, he was on a Heisman course until he suffered a season-ending knee injury. The junior may be trumped by teammate Tee Martin, who is the triggerman of the Vols' attack.

10. Joe Hamilton, QB, Georgia Tech

You can't help but have images of Doug Flutie when watching the 5-10 Hamilton. The senior displayed a flair for the dramatic last year by engineering three game-winning drives in the fourth quarter. An experienced offense boosts his cause.

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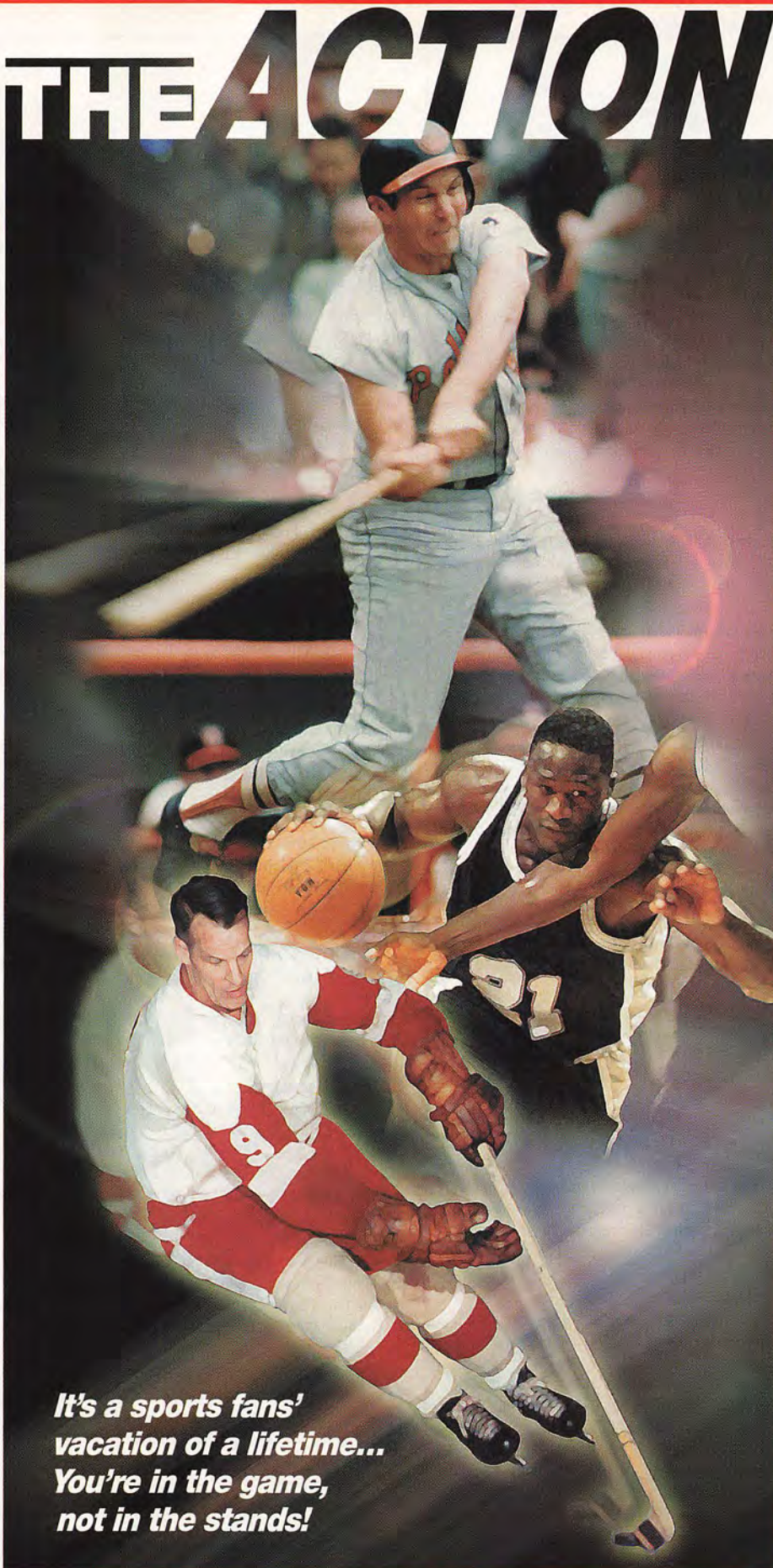
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OFFENSE

Backfields

1. Tennessee

Key players: QB Tee Martin*, TB Jamal Lewis, TB Travis Henry*, TB Travis Stephens

Comment: FB Shawn Bryson is gone and Lewis is coming off a knee injury, but there's lots to like. Coaches want to get one of the Traveses on the field with Lewis.

2. Arizona

Key players: TB Trung Canidate*, TB Leon Callen, QB Ortege Jenkins, TB Leo Mills, QB Keith Smith*

Comment: TB depth is unmatched, and the two-headed QB monster has turned into a beautiful thing. FB Kelvin Eafon, who gained the tough yards, will be missed.

3. Florida State

Key players: TB Jeff Chaney, QB Jared Jones, TB Travis Minor*, QB Chris Weinke*

Comment: Dan Kendra may be the new FB. There's no doubt Minor is the TB. If Weinke, who is recovering from a neck injury, struggles, hotshot Jones is available.

4. Arizona State

Key players: RB Delvon Flowers, RB Davaren Hightower, QB Ryan Kealy*, RB J.R. Redmond*

Comment: The Sun Devils are so well stocked at RB that Redmond may play some WR and DB. Depth behind Kealy is shaky. FB Jeff Paulk's blocking will be missed.

5. Georgia Tech

Key players: RB Joe Burns*, QB Joe Hamilton*, RB Phillip Rogers, FB Ed Wilder*

Comment: Burns was one of the Atlantic Coast's top freshmen last year. When Hamilton isn't handing off to talented runners, he is gaining yards on his own.

6. Arkansas

Key players: RB Chrys Chukwuma*, RB Cedric Cobbs, RB Mike Jenkins, QB Clint Stoerner*

Comment: Stoerner has to make plays behind a rebuilt line, which means throwing the ball to Anthony Lucas and handing it to Chukwuma.

7. Alabama

Key players: RB Shaun Alexander*, FB Dustin McClintock*, QB Tyler Watts, QB Andrew Zow*

Comment: Coaches are so pleased with Zow and Watts that they will use both at the start of the season. Alexander, who may be the best tailback in the SEC, will benefit from a veteran line and fullback.

8. Oklahoma State

Key players: RB Jamaal Fobbs, FB Jeremy Halferty*, QB Tony Lindsay*, RB Nathan Simmons*

Comment: Athletic ability abounds with Lindsay at the controls. Simmons, if healthy, and Fobbs form a formidable running tandem.

9. Houston

Key players: QB Jason McKinley*, RB Ketric Sanford*, RB Mike Green, RB Leif Penn, RB Joffrey Reynolds, FB Tommie Baldwin

Comment: This group is made more effective by a strong wideout corps. It's vital that Sanford stay healthy. Reynolds, a redshirt freshman, is an exciting prospect.

10. Marshall

Key players: RB Doug Chapman*, QB Chad Pennington*, RB Llow Turner

Comment: Pennington has passed for more than 10,000 yards. Chapman has speed, strength and size. Turner has 1,599 career rushing yards.

Lines

1. Florida State

Key players: G Ross Brannon*, G Jerry Carmichael*, C Jarad Moon, C Eric Thomas*, T Carlos Thomas*, G Jason Whitaker*

Comment: The depth is terrific on what may be the top line in Florida State annuals. Whitaker is the star.

2. Penn State

Key players: T John Blick*, C Eric Cole*, T Kareem McKenzie*, G Greg Ransom*, G Gabe Tinch

Comment: Blick and McKenzie, who has moved from guard, are mammoth at tackle, but a lack of athletic ability may prove detrimental.

3. Alabama

Key players: G Will Cuthbert*, C Paul Hogan*, T Kenric Lott, G Jason McDonald*, G Griff Redmill*, T Chris Samuels*

Comment: Samuels is the star of this veteran unit that will pave the way for what looks like an exciting attack.

4. Ohio State

Key players: T Henry Fleming, G Ben Gilbert*, C Kurt Murphy*, G Rob Murphy*, T Tyson Walter*

Comment: Fleming is trying to fill Brooks Burris' left tackle slot. While Murphy gets the hype, Gilbert may be the best of the bunch.

5. Florida

Key players: G Cheston Blackshear*, T Cooper Carlisle*, G Ryan Kalich*, T Kenyatta Walker*, C Zac Zedalis*

Comment: These guys need to improve a ground attack that averaged 115 yards last year. Walker may be a star.

6. Wisconsin

Key players: G Dave Costa*, G Bill Ferrario*, T Ben Johnson, T Brian Lamont, T Chris McIntosh*, C Casey Rabach*

Comment: Aaron Gibson is gone, but McIntosh is better. These guys are motivated to get Ron Dayne the 499 yards he needs to be the all-time Big Ten rushing leader.

7. Tennessee

Key players: T Chad Clifton*, G Toby Champion, G Cosey Coleman*, C Spencer Riley*, T Josh Tucker

Comment: Champion and Tucker have one combined start between them. The star power of Clifton, Coleman and Riley is enough to smooth out any rough spots.

8. Michigan

Key players: T Jeff Backus*, C David Brandt*, G Steve Frazier*, G Steve Hutchinson*, G Chris Ziemann

Comment: T Jon Jansen is off to the NFL, but lots of talent returns. Hutchinson and Backus are the best of the bunch. The unit's cause is helped by FB Aaron Shea.

9. Arizona

Key players: T Makai Freitas, G Steven Grace*, G Marques McFadden, T Manu Savea*, C Bruce Wiggins*

Comment: This unit would have been even better had G Yusuf Scott not left early. Grace and Freitas are youngsters with bright futures.

10. Miami, Ohio

Key players: G Bob Beinecke*, T Phil Hawk*, G Chris Huelsman*, C Chris Kalafatis*, T Alex Sulfsted*

Comment: Sulfsted is the best of five returning starters.

Receivers

1. UCLA

Key players: Danny Farmer*, Brad Melsby, Freddie Mitchell, Brian Poli-Dixon*

Comment: The Bruins need Mitchell to be recovered from broken leg. Poli-Dixon reminds many of J.J. Stokes.

2. Florida State

Key players: Laveranues Coles*, Ron Dugans*, Germaine Stringer, Peter Warrick*

Comment: Warrick's presence will create room to roam for others. Look for Dugans to emerge.

3. Arkansas

Key players: Hubert Loudermilk, Anthony Lucas*, Emanuel Smith, Michael Snowden, Eddie "Boo" Williams, Michael Williams*

Comment: Lucas is the star, but keep an eye on Boo Williams, a junior college transfer. Don't forget

about tight end Joe Dean Davenport.

4. Miami, Fla.

Key players: Daryl Jones, Andre King, Santana Moss*, Reggie Wayne*

Comment: TE Daniel Franks makes this corps even better, but Wayne must be OK following a knee injury.

5. Stanford

Key players: Dave Davis, Ryan Fernandez, DeRonnie Pitts*, Taffiti Uso, Troy Walters*

Comment: Walters is the school's all-time leader in receiving yards. Walters and Pitts each has a 1,000-yard receiving season. Davis caught 48 passes in 1998.

6. Louisville

Key players: Lavell Boyd*, Arnold Jackson*, Zek Parker, Charles Sheffield*

Comment: Ibn Green paced the nation's tight ends with 55 catches last year. The diminutive Jackson is custom-built for John L. Smith's pass, pass, pass attack.

7. Louisiana State

Key players: Abram Booty*, Ed Dangerfield, Larry Foster*, Michael Hayes, Reggie Robinson

Comment: While these guys have promise, someone must get them the ball. Keep an eye on Robinson.

8. Michigan State

Key players: Plaxico Burress*, Herb Haygood, Lavelle Richardson, Gari Scott*

Comment: This promising corps is bolstered by several good TEs. Burress is a giant target.

9. Southern Mississippi

Key players: John Floyd, Sherrod Gideon*, Todd Pinkston*, Raymond Walls

Comment: A good running attack will make these guys more dangerous. Gideon is the best wideout you've never heard about. But a new QB must develop.

10. Purdue

Key players: Chris Daniels*, Randall Lane*, Larry Shyne, A.T. Simpson, Vinny Sutherland

Comment: There is skill in Lane, Sutherland and TE Tim Stratton. Junior college transfer Shyne may emerge.



DEFENSE

Lines

1. Virginia Tech

Key players: T Carl Bradley, E John Engelberger*, E Corey Moore*, T Nat Williams

Comment: Secondary losses will add pressure to standout unit that returns seven of top eight players.

2. Florida State

Key players: NT Jerry Johnson*, E Jamal Reynolds, E Roland Seymour*, T Corey Simon*, E David Warren

Comment: Simon can't be bitten again by the injury bug. Reynolds looks like Florida State's next great end.

3. Tennessee

Key players: E Roger Alexander, E Shaun Ellis*, T John Henderson, E Will Overstreet, T Billy Ratliff, T Darwin Walker*

Comment: Henderson is an exciting prospect. Walker is a run-stuffer and Ellis brings the heat.

4. Washington

Key players: E Nick Feigner, T Jabari Issa, E/LB Jeremiah Pharms*, T Mac Tuiaea

Comment: The tackles are huge, but foes still averaged 131 rushing yards last year. Pharms is a pass-rushing fiend, regardless of where he lines up.

5. Notre Dame

Key players: E Lamont Bryant, E Grant Irons, T Antwon Jones, T Lance Legree*, E Anthony Weaver*, T Brad Williams*

Comment: Great depth allows the Irish to switch to a four-man front. Weaver looks like a future star.

6. Southern Mississippi

Key players: T John Nix*, E Cedric Scott*, NT DeQuincy Scott*, E Adaluis Thomas*

Comment: The loss of three secondary starters adds pressure to a deep unit. Thomas gets the headlines, but Scott may be the best of the bunch.

7. Southern California

Key players: E Shamsud-Din Abdul-Shaheed*, E Matt Childers, T Ennis Davis*, E Lonnie Ford, T Aaron Williams*

Comment: This is the unquestioned strength of the improving Trojans. Davis must be OK after knee surgery.

8. Ohio State

Key players: E Rodney Bailey*, T Joe Brown*, T Mike Collins, E James Cotton, E Brent Johnson*, E Matt LaVrar, T Ryan Pickett*, T Clinton Wayne

Comment: All four reserves also return. That's good, because the LB corps is being rebuilt.

9. California

Key players: E Andre Carter*, T Jerry DeLoach*, NT Nate Geldermann, E Johnny Jackson, E Mawuko Tugbenyoh, NT Jacob Waasdorp*

Comment: Carter, a son of former NFL player Rubin, is a big talent for an underrated defense.

10. Texas

Key players: T Casey Hampton*, E Aaron Humphrey*, T Shaun Rogers, E Cedric Woodard*

Comment: The backups are talented but young. To challenge for the Big 12 title, this unit must shine.

Linebackers

1. Penn State

Key players: OLB LaVar Arrington*, ILB Shamar Finney, OLB Aaron Gatten, OLB Ron Graham, OLB Mac Morrison*, MLB Brandon Short*

Comment: Arrington has unmatched athletic ability. Short is among the nation's best run-stuffers. Morrison is a lunch-bucket sort. Depth is good.

2. California

Key players: ILB Matt Beck*, ILB Jamaal Cherry, ILB Keith Miller, OLB Sekou Sanyika*, ILB Jason Smith

Comment: Beck is a tackling machine. Sanyika is a big and fast playmaker on the edge for a defense that went from last in the Pac-10 in 1996 to third in '98.

3. Miami, Fla.

Key players: MLB Rod Mack, OLB Dan Morgan*, OLB Michael Smith*, MLB Nate Webster*

Comment: A fast and athletic trio of returning starters can cover the field from sideline to sideline.

4. North Carolina

Key players: OLB Sedrick Hodge*, OLB Quincy Monk, OLB Merceda Perry*, OLB Brandon Spoon*

Comment: Few teams can match the athletic ability of this group, which is expecting big things from Spoon.

5. Tennessee

Key players: MLB Chris Ramseur, OLB Dominique Stevenson, OLB Raynoch Thompson*, OLB Eric

Westmoreland*

Comment: Al Wilson's leadership will be missed. But Thompson and Westmoreland will protect the corner.

6. Air Force

Key players: ILB Daniel Alves, OLB Travis Meidinger*, ILB Matt Pommer, ILB Craig Thorstenson*, OLB Billy Wilson, ILB C.J. Zanotti*

Comment: Losses up front make these guys important. Thorstenson may be the Falcons' best LB ever.

7. Wisconsin

Key player: ILB Chris Ghidorzi*, OLB Dan Lisowski, OLB Roger Knight, ILB Donnel Thompson*

Comment: This unit is made even more effective by a strong line and secondary.

8. Arizona

Key players: ILB Marcus Bell*, OLB Stadford Glover, ILB Adrian Koch, OLB DaShon Polk*, ILB Scooter Sprotte*

Comment: Buoyed by three returning starters, this is the best LB corps in Dick Tomey's 13 years in Tucson.

9. East Carolina

Key players: ILB Pernel Griffin*, ILB Jeff Kerr*, OLB Bernard Williams, OLB Marc Yellock

Comment: Griffin and Kerr rank as one of nation's best inside duos. The Pirates are switching to a 3-4 defense.

10. Nebraska

Key players: OLB Eric Johnson*, OLB Tony Ortiz*, MLB Carlos Polk, OLB Brian Shaw

Comment: Johnson is a quick playmaker. Polk figures to take over for Jay Foreman in the middle.

Secondary

1. Tennessee

Key players: SS Derrick Edmonds, CB Maurice Fitzgerald, FS Tad Golden, CB Dwayne Goodrich*, FS Deon Grant*, CB Andre Lott, SS Fred White*

Comment: Ability to cover man-to-man allows the Vols to play aggressively. Coaches want to get the talented Golden on field.

2. Florida State

Key players: CB Tay Cody*, CB Mario Edwards*, SS Derrick Gibson*, FS Chris Hope

Comment: Look for the Seminoles to blitz often, because these guys can play man coverage. Edwards and Cody may be the nation's top cornerback duo.

3. Nebraska

Key players: SS Mike Brown*, CB Ralph Brown*, FS Clint Finley*, CB Erwin Swiney*, SS Joe Walker

Comment: This quick, experienced and athletic unit is Nebraska's strongest element. Ralph Brown in the headlines.

4. Penn State

Key players: CB Askari Adams, FS James Boyd, SS Derek Fox*, CB Erwin Swiney*, SS Joe Walker

Comment: The 5-9 Macklin and 5-8 King are vulnerable due to their size, but they make plays.

5. Kansas State

Key players: CB Adrian Beard, CB Jerametrius Butler*, CB Dysnod Carter*, FS Lamar Chapman*, SS Jarrod Cooper*, CB DeRon Tyler

Comment: Cooper and Chapman form one of the nation's top safety duos, but the corners can be exposed.

6. Florida

Key players: CB Bennie Alexander*, CB Robert Cromartie, SS Rod Graddy*, SS Marquand Manuel, FS Lester Norwood

Comment: With the front seven being retooled, these guys must play a big role. Alexander is coming off a strong freshman season.

7. Clemson

Key players: CB Alex Ardley*, FS Robert Carswell*, SS DoMarco Fox*, CB Dextra Polite

Comment: Star CB Antuan Edwards is gone, but three starters are back. There is talent in Carswell and Fox. The corners need to step up.

8. Miami, Fla.

Key players: SS Al Blades*, CB Markese Fitzgerald*, CB Leonard Myers*, SS Jeff Popovich, SS Edward Reed*

Comment: Eight players return who have made at least one start. Myers must be healthy following a knee injury. Super sophomore Reed likes to hit.

9. Notre Dame

Key players: FS Deke Cooper*, CB Deveron Harper*, SS Lee Lafayette, SS A'Jani Sanders*, CB Brock Williams*

Comment: Tony Driver has moved back to offense, but this unit has experience and improved speed. Safeties Cooper and Sanders are big-time.

10. Colorado

Key players: FS Rashidi Barnes, SS Albus Brooks, CB Ben Kelly*, SS John Sanders*, CB Damen Wheeler*

Comment: The Buffaloes should be able to attack up front, thanks to speedy covermen Kelly and Wheeler.

* Returning starter



Lamar Chapman, Kansas State

STEVE HERBERT/FORTSN

BY MARK BLAUDSCHUN

Happy Days in Happy Valley

Penn State has the talent to make Joe Paterno's 50th season truly golden

Fifty seasons. At one place. Think about that for a minute. And think about this: Since Joe Paterno took over as the head coach at Penn State in the fall of 1966, we've had seven U.S. presidents.

When Joe Paterno became head coach at Penn State, Steve Spurrier was a senior in college, winning the Heisman Trophy at the University of Florida. Super Bowl I had yet to be played. When Paterno arrived at Penn State as a first-year assistant coach in the fall of 1950, no one now playing in the NFL had yet been born—or would be for another six years.

And think about this: Since Paterno took over as the head man in Happy Valley, Penn State has won two national championships, posted five undefeated, untied seasons and had 20 Top 10 finishes. More than 200 of Paterno's players have gone on to the NFL.

Who better to represent college football as it moves into a new century but Joe Pa, now a Lion in Winter, to be sure, but with 307 victories still very much in control and wanting more. And finally, think about this: With 19 starters and 44 lettermen back from last year's 9-3 team, the chances of finding Penn State at least contending for the national title in the Sugar Bowl on January 4, 2000, are better than good.

Yeah, we know. This is going to be another Southern cooking national championship season, with someone like defending champion Tennessee making a strong bid to repeat or those perennial contenders from Tallahassee or Gainesville getting involved as well. But don't count out Joe Pa. He's still got game when it comes to X's and O's, and when you look at the talent on the Nittany Lions roster it's evident he can still recruit with most people.

This is the last season of the 20th century in college football, and somehow it seems right that Joe Pa is part of it. Maybe it's because Penn State reminds us of the past instead of the future, from those Coke-bottle glasses to the black coaching shoes to the blue and white uniforms that haven't changed much in half a century—provided you can ignore the obnoxious Nike swoosh, Paterno's one concession to the new era of football and marketing.

Maybe it's State College itself, where you still expect to see Richie Cunningham and The Fonz show up at Arnold's on a Friday night before a big game. "Penn State is like *Brigadoon*," said former Nittany Lions All-American linebacker Greg Buttle after Paterno won his 300th career game last fall, a milestone that put him behind only Bear Bryant, Pop Warner and Amos Alonzo Stagg in Division I-A coaching circles. "You go away for a while and then come back and everything is still the same. The same assistants are here. The fans are here. And Joe is still the same. He remembers your name and maybe even your friend's name. He's different from any coach in college football. Who else gives \$3 million back to his





university? Who else talks about art, the library, math and politics?"

And football, of course. Paterno likes this year's team. He also should like a schedule that includes home games with perennial Big Ten powers Michigan and Ohio State. Not that there won't be challenges, beginning with a game against Arizona in the Pigskin Classic in August. Many people think the Wildcats have a legitimate chance to contend for the national title. But things are in place for Penn State. Paterno has the schedule. He has the talent. He has the desire.

At 72, Paterno says he will stick around for a while to enjoy this. "There are things I want to accomplish yet," he says. "I don't play golf or have any other compelling hobbies. There's nothing I enjoy more than football."

It wouldn't be a college football season without him. And it certainly wouldn't be right if college football ended a century of competition and Joe Pa wasn't a part of it.

Five games we would pay to see

1. Colorado at Washington, September 25

You probably thought this was just another non-conference matchup between a couple of national championship wannabes. Well, it is. It also is a matchup between Rick Neuheisel's old team, Colorado, and his new team, Washington, with a twist. Seems that the folks at Colorado didn't like the way Ranger Rick left town. And the new sheriff in Boulder, Gary Barnett, didn't like the way Neuheisel said goodbye to some of his former players. Talked about tampering and stuff like that. Lots of it is rhetoric, of course, and things have quieted down a bit. But since these games are scheduled years in advance, the irony is too good to pass up. And it should be a decent game.

2. Florida State at Clemson, October 23

Remember the old game show *Family Feud*? Nah, you probably don't. Doesn't matter. Remember this game in Death Valley. Sure, it's Florida State vs. Clemson, which is an old-fashioned Atlantic Coast Conference thriller, but this year it's got more of a kick. It's Bowden vs. Bowden. The historians among us probably remember that Bowden vs. Bowden, Part I, was scheduled to take place at Auburn this September. But Terry Bowden resigned from Auburn in the middle of last season because he said he would have been fired at the end of the year, and daddy Bobby said that

was all well and fine, but without Terry and the way they did things up at Auburn there was no reason why Florida State needed to be giving the Tigers a game. So now we have this. And it promises to be a whole lot more fun. Tommy Bowden, the new man at Clemson after a successful stint at Tulane, against Bobby. Can't wait. And one more thing. If Florida State wins its first seven games—a reasonable assumption—a win over Clemson would be the 300th of Bobby's career.

3. Penn State at Miami, Fla. September 18

The Orange Bowl should have an old-fashioned flavor to it. Near sellout crowd, championship contender meeting championship contender, in a nearly winner-take-all situation. We'll know more about Miami than Penn State after this game since the Hurricanes open with Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic and have their annual game against Florida State three weeks later.

4. Wisconsin at Ohio State, October 2

The Big Ten co-titlists didn't meet last season, and Ron Dayne and Co. go to Columbus for this one. It should be an elimination match in the race for the Big Ten title with Penn State.

5. Notre Dame at Tennessee, November 6

This is an "if" game. If Tennessee can get past Florida again and Alabama again and go into this game unbeaten, and if Notre Dame can survive games at Michigan and at Purdue and go into the game unbeaten, Neyland Stadium will be at its all-time noisiest for one of the truly great intersectional battles of the year.

Have yourself a Merry Christmas (if you win)

These five coaches had better take care of business in September, October and November, or the holiday season could be one missing good cheer.

1. GERRY DINARDO, LOUISIANA STATE.

Last year's 4-7 record made some people nervous about the perennially underachieving Tigers. A repeat of that effort (or lack thereof) could put DiNardo's job security in serious jeopardy.

2. TOM O'BRIEN, BOSTON COLLEGE.

Athletic director Gene DeFilippo says O'Brien is "his guy" even though he didn't hire him. But back-to-back 4-7 seasons are not good, especially for a team that had three players taken in the first 64 in the NFL draft. With the best recruiting class in years coming to Boston College, O'Brien had better have a .500-or-above record to keep speculation about his job status to a minimum.

3. TERRY SHEA, RUTGERS. Yes, he was Big East coach of the year last season, but that was by a process of elimination as much as anything else. Yes, the Scarlet Knights were 5-6. The cupcakes of a year ago are gone, replaced by California and Texas, and there is little to indicate the Knights are any better talentwise than they were a year ago. A slow start, coupled with a slow finish, could signal the end of the Shea regime.

4. FRANK SOLICH, NEBRASKA. No, Solich is not in any trouble. But at Nebraska the bar is set higher than almost anywhere else. What looks like a nice, solid 9-4 season elsewhere has the folks in Lincoln grumbling. Add a bowl loss to the mix and repeat the performance this season, and people will be demanding the return of Tom Osborne.

5. MIKE DuBOSE, ALABAMA. Last year's 7-5 finish was an improvement over the year before (4-7), but it's not the 9-2 or 10-1 that people in Tuscaloosa have come to expect. Things should get progressively better for DuBose as better recruits arrive on campus. If they don't, watch out.



Tom O'Brien

Best bets to be a head coach in 2000

1. Ralph Friedgen, Georgia Tech

George O'Leary's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Friedgen, at 52, is not exactly a young Turk. But he's young enough to build a program.

2. Mark Richt, offensive coordinator/QB coach, Florida State

One of the heirs apparent to Bobby Bowden, but if the right school calls, he could move out on his own.

3. Al Borges, offensive coordinator/QB coach, UCLA

Who has had a better offensive scheme the past three years than the Bruins? Coincides neatly with the three years Borges has been on Bob Toledo's staff.



Mark Richt

Favorite hangouts

If you don't have a ticket for the game, here's where you can spend a few hours on Saturday and still have a good time:

1. Alabama. No need to go hungry if you don't have a ticket for the games at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Hop in your car, go back under the interstate, and ask for directions to Dreamland. Best barbecue ribs in the country, bar none. Don't expect a lot of fancy frills. Just white bread, chips, something to drink and a slab of ribs. It's heaven at Dreamland.

2. California. This requires a road trip back into San Francisco and a dedication to food, since Cal or Stanford games rarely are sold out, except when they play each other. Get a map, find the intersection of Taraval and 19th Avenue, go in a block and find a place called The Gold Mirror. It's in the Parkside District of San Francisco, far from the tourist areas. The cannelloni is to die for.

3. Miami. Leave the Orange Bowl behind, cross one of the causeways into Miami Beach and find either Monte's or Joe's Stone Crabs. We like them both, although putting up with the tourist-season wait at Joe's can be a bit taxing. The stone crabs at either place are worth the wait.

4. Penn State. State College is not the gourmet capital of the world, although you can find a good meal. The place to go to satisfy your sweet tooth is the Penn State creamery, where you can sample freshly made ice cream. Yes, Peachy Paterno is available.

5. Tennessee. It's right on the Tennessee River, a long down-and-out pass from Neyland Stadium. It's called Calhouns. Don't even look at the menu. Get the fried catfish and enjoy.

A star is born

These guys will be stars—and sooner, rather than later

1. Corey Redding, LB, Texas. The high school national defensive player of the year in 1998 in some circles. Fellow recruit Chris Simms got more ink, but he plays quarterback behind Major Applewhite and might redshirt this season. Redding, from Houston, can be a factor right away.

2. J.P. Losman, QB, UCLA. With Cade McNown gone, the job technically is open. Losman, who passed for 3,544 yards and 49 touchdowns as a high school senior in 1998, can't possibly be ready for the Pac-10 wars, can he?

3. Curtis Crosby, DB, Ohio State. Buckeyes coach John Cooper got this kid out of Columbus, and he's so good he'll see playing time as a true freshman. Could be the latest in the long line of great Buckeyes defensive backs.

4. Durrell Robinson, WR, Georgia. With Champ Bailey gone, quarterback Quincy Carter needs a new playmate at wide receiver. Robinson could fill the bill. Robinson had 14 TD catches for his Spartanburg, S.C., team in 1998, despite missing four games because of a broken leg.

5. Jermell and Jerrell Weaver, LBs, Miami, Fla. Got to hand it to Hurricanes coach Butch Davis. When he recruits, he recruits. He got these twins out of Miami's Northwestern High School.

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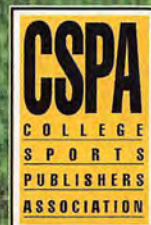
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Top 10 questions of 1999

- Can Lou Holtz and Tommy Bowden turn things around quickly at South Carolina and Clemson?
Answer: Yes. But it might take Holtz longer since the Gamecocks play in a tougher league and have more teams to climb over.
- Will there be Bowl Championship Series controversies and confusion the way there was last year?
Answer: Yes, but not as much. The system has been tinkered with. Remember this: The sole purpose of the BCS was to match No. 1 vs. No. 2. After that, the other BCS matchups don't have to include the best teams.
- Who is going to be the major surprise team of the year?
Answer: Arkansas. The Hogs are loaded and hungry. They could make a serious run at the Southeastern Conference title, which would put them in the hunt for the national title if they succeed.
- Who's going to be the biggest disappointment?
Answer: Notre Dame. Lots of holes to fill, a tough schedule, and lots of new faces in key places. All of which adds up to a dangerous situation for the Irish.
- Will there be expansion talk in the Big Ten?
Answer: Talk, yes, action, not for awhile, maybe not at all. After the Notre Dame affair, the Big Ten is in no hurry to invite someone else. Besides, who really fits and wants to join the league?
- Will Kansas State continue its run of regular-season dominance?
Answer: Sort of. The Wildcats won't come close to the run of the past four years despite a non-conference schedule that includes not much heavy lifting (Temple, Texas-El Paso, Utah State). They'll win enough to be a solid bowl team.
- Will there be one dominant storyline during the season?
Answer: The return to prominence of Florida as the power base. With any luck, Miami, Florida and Florida State can find themselves in the Top 5 at some point in the season. Just like the old days.
- Will the Big East be better than it was a year ago?
Answer: Yes, because Miami will be better and because teams like Boston College and Pittsburgh should be better, giving more depth to the league.
- Which will be the best league?
Answer: It's hard to go against the SEC.
- Who's going to win the national championship?
Answer: Wait and see what happens.



Alex Brown, Florida

TOD ANDERSON FOR TSN

Jurassic Park

Call them "Coach" again—which makes John Robinson at UNLV and Lou Holtz at South Carolina smile. Both of these *sixtysomething* coaches have had great careers, stepped away and are back. Both figure to have the odds stacked against them.

Robinson will be a long way from the Rose Bowl when he steps on the field in Denton, Texas, on September 2 for his UNLV debut against North Texas. Look at it this way, John: Anything better than the 0-11 record carved out by last year's UNLV team will be greeted with cheers, at least temporarily.

Holtz has a better chance at South Carolina but is in a much tougher league. Lou can make a difference of a few games, which means last season's 1-10 mark will be topped. But he's in a league with Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Auburn and Mississippi State. Going 7-4 will be coach of the year stuff.

A young pup in this group is Dennis Erickson at Oregon State. He's a *fiftysomething* coach coming off five tough seasons in the NFL with the Seattle Seahawks. He's close to home, and he does have a couple of national championship rings from his days at Miami. And he has a team that, if it goes 6-5, will have him regarded as a hero in Corvallis.

Crystal bowl gazing

Yes, it's a little early, but studying the exit polls coming out of the early practice sessions, here are our best projections as to the Bowl Championship Series pairings:

SUGAR BOWL—Penn State vs. Florida State

ROSE BOWL—Arizona vs. Ohio State

FIESTA BOWL—Texas vs. Arkansas

ORANGE BOWL—Miami vs. Florida

Mark Blaudschun covers college football for the Boston Globe and THE SPORTING NEWS. E-mail him at blaudschun@sportingnews.com.

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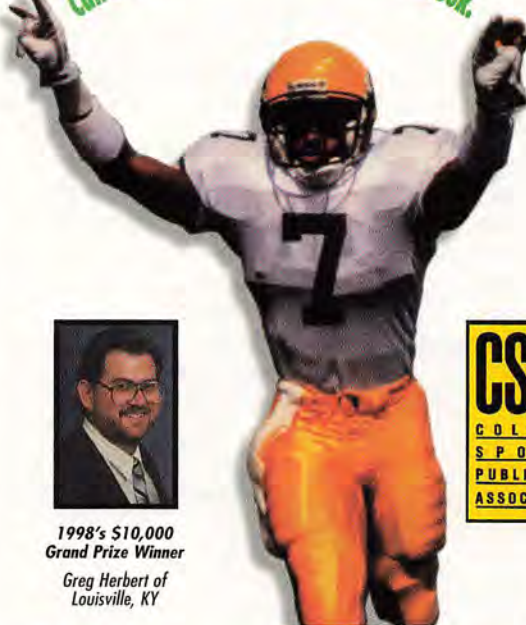
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Rushing Yards under 100 =5 points
Every Sack =1 point
Every Interception =1 point

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<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona\$2,030,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky.....\$740,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Rice.....\$610,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona State\$1,285,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Tech.....\$900,000	<input type="checkbox"/> San Diego State.....\$835,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas\$1,250,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Louisville.....\$740,000	<input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina\$390,000
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<input type="checkbox"/> Auburn\$775,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Marshall\$1,180,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Southern Mississippi\$1,270,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Boise State\$850,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland\$375,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Syracuse\$1,475,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Boston College\$650,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Miami-Florida.....\$1,720,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Temple\$300,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowling Green\$660,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Miami-Ohio\$1,245,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee.....\$2,175,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Brigham Young.....\$1,240,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan\$1,730,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas\$1,685,000
<input type="checkbox"/> California\$420,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan State\$1,220,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas A&M.....\$1,975,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Florida\$680,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota\$510,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas Christian\$915,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Clemson\$715,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi\$825,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas Tech\$1,065,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado\$1,200,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi State\$1,415,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Toledo\$810,000
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<input type="checkbox"/> Duke\$330,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy\$300,000	<input type="checkbox"/> UCLA\$1,800,000
<input type="checkbox"/> East Carolina.....\$550,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska.....\$2,110,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Utah\$1,005,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Florida\$2,100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Nevada\$1,075,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Vanderbilt.....\$300,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Florida State.....\$2,200,000	<input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina\$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia\$1,575,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Fresno State\$515,000	<input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina State.....\$1,205,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Tech\$1,350,000
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THE SPORTING NEWS PRIME PROSPECTS

THE SPORTING NEWS asked five recruiting gurus to provide lists of the top high school seniors at each position for the 1999 season. We compiled those rankings into one master list. The players are ranked by position according to how many check marks they received. Check marks indicate that a player is considered one of the nation's 100 best by that analyst.

KEY: TL—Tom Lemming; NR—National Recruiting Advisor;
GW—G&W Recruiting Service; PS—PrepStar; BB—Bill Buchalter.

Quarterbacks	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Brock Berlin	6-2	195	Shreveport, La./Evangel Christian	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Rattay	6-4	200	Phoenix/Desert Vista	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeff Smoker	6-4	195	Manheim, Pa./Central	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chris Rix	6-3	200	La Puente, Calif./Bish. Amat	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zac Wasserman	6-3	205	Westlake Village, Calif./Westlake	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jason Campbell	6-5	185	Taylorville, Miss./Taylorville	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Matt Cassell	6-3	195	Chatsworth, Calif./Chatsworth	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Casey Clausen	6-4	215	Mission Hills, Calif./Alemany	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Darian Durant	6-1	217	Florence, S.C./Wilson	✓	-	-	✓	-
Luke McCown	6-5	185	Jacksonville, Texas/Jacksonville	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Chance Mock	6-2	190	The Woodlands, Texas/Woodlands	✓	✓	-	-	-
Dondrial Pinkins	6-3	215	Camilla, Ga./Mitchell-Baker	✓	-	✓	-	-
Brandon Sumner	6-4	190	Daytona Beach, Fla./Mainland	-	✓	-	-	✓
Running backs	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Vontez Duff	6-0	180	Copperas Cove, Texas/Copp. Cove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marcus Houston	6-2	200	Denver/Jefferson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dustin Picciotti	6-3	235	Doylestown, Pa./C. Bucks West	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brandon Royster	6-0	175	Fairfax, Va./Fairfax	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tyrell Dortch	6-1	190	Hoboken, N.J./Hoboken	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Justin Green	6-1	215	San Diego/University	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Kisslie Green	5-10	190	Kissimmee, Fla./Osceola	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Chris Howard	5-11	175	Wilmington, Calif./Banning	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manuel White	6-2	220	Valencia, Calif./Valencia	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Derrick Arnold	6-2	215	Houston/Milby	✓	-	-	✓	✓
Joey Harris	5-11	190	Klein Oak, Texas/Klein Oak	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Tony Johnson	6-1	195	State College, Pa./State College	-	✓	✓	✓	-
Willis McGahee	6-1	215	Miami/Central	-	✓	✓	✓	-
Tyson Thompson	6-2	195	Irving, Texas/Irving	-	✓	-	✓	-
Marvin Vaughn	5-10	190	Camden, Miss./Velma Jackson	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Wide receivers	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Tab Perry	6-3	215	Milpitas, Calif./Milpitas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reggie Vickers	6-1	175	Belle Glade, Fla./Glades Central	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roy Williams	6-4	190	Odessa, Texas/Permian	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Willie Dixon	5-11	175	Stockton, Calif./Brookside Christian	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mark Jones	5-10	170	Wallingford, Pa./Strath Haven	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Charles Rogers	6-4	180	Saginaw, Mich./Saginaw	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
B.J. Johnson	6-0	180	S. Grand Prairie, Texas/S. Gr. Prairie	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Kelvin Kight	6-1	180	Lithonia, Ga./Lithonia	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Sloan Thomas	6-2	187	Klein, Texas/Klein	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Markus Curry	6-0	180	Harper Woods, Mich./B. Gallagher	-	-	✓	-	✓
Don Patrick	6-5	195	Hazletton, Pa./Hazletton	✓	-	-	✓	-
Tight ends	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Teyo Johnson	6-7	230	Everett, Wash./Mariner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eric Knott	6-4	235	Detroit/Henry Ford	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chris Septak	6-5	235	Omaha, Neb./Millard West	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Brock Edwards	6-5	245	Ft. Worth, Texas/Christian	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Willie Roberts	6-7	225	Miami/Southridge	✓	-	-	✓	✓
Jared Mazzetta	6-5	240	Hunterdon Central, N.J./Hunt. Cen.	✓	✓	-	-	-

Offensive linemen	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Doug Buckles	6-6	285	Madison, Miss./Madison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carlos Joseph	6-6	300	Miami/Edison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joe McGuire	6-6	295	Anaheim, Calif./Anaheim	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mike Munoz	6-6	300	Cincinnati/Moeller	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greg Pauly	6-6	275	Waukesha, Wisc./South	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shannon Snell	6-6	305	Tampa/Hillsborough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alex Barron	6-7	300	Orangeburg, S.C./Wilkinson	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Antonio Hall	6-5	295	Canton, Ohio/McKinley	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Kwame Harris	6-5	300	Newark, Del./Newark	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Wes Sims	6-5	300	Weatherford, Okla./Weatherford	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Danny Dicks	6-6	285	Bellevue, Wash./Bellevue	✓	-	-	✓	✓
Clint Gillespie	6-4	320	Arp, Texas/Arp	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Erik Noll	6-5	275	Gaithersburg, Md./Watkins Mill	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Alphonso Townsend	6-6	280	Lima, Ohio/Lima	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Defensive linemen	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Travis Johnson	6-4	250	Sherman Oaks, Calif./Notre Dame	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Darrell Lee	6-5	235	St. Louis/Kirkwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mac Tyler	6-5	285	Bessemer, Ala./Lanier	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mondre Dickerson	6-6	260	Memphis/Melrose	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
John Paul Jones	6-3	270	Carencro, La./Carencro	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steve Lee	6-5	300	Shreveport, La./Evangel Christian	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Sean McHugh	6-5	240	Chagrin Falls, Ohio/Chagrin Falls	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Albert Means	6-5	305	Memphis/Trezevant	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Sonny Davis	6-2	280	Austin, Texas/Lanier	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Jesse Sias	6-3	310	Dallas/Kimball	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Steve Williams	6-4	280	Bolingbrook, Ill./Bolingbrook	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Vince Woolfork	6-3	300	Lantana, Fla./Santaluces	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Alton Wright	6-5	235	Houston/Jones	✓	-	-	✓	✓
Linebackers	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Eric Moore	6-4	220	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D.J. Williams	6-2	225	Concord, Calif./De La Salle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jason Clark	6-3	225	Starkville, Miss./Starkville	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mike Goolsby	6-4	225	Joliet, Ill./Catholic	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Ray Mann	6-2	229	Hampton, Va./Hampton	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Robert Peace	6-3	215	Ruston, La./Ruston	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Marco Cooper	6-2	233	Detroit/Cass Tech	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Amon Gordon	6-3	240	Everett, Wash./Mariner	✓	✓	-	-	-
Spencer Johnson	6-4	235	Silas, Ala./Southern Choctaw	-	-	-	✓	✓
Jesse Neumyer	6-3	230	Mechanicsburg, Pa./Cumb. Valley	-	✓	-	✓	-
Sam Ruhe	6-5	240	Stow, Ohio/Walsh Jesuit	✓	-	-	-	✓
Darrion Scott	6-3	245	Charleston, W.Va./Capital	✓	-	✓	-	-
Sean Tufts	6-5	235	Englewood, Colo./Cherry Creek	✓	-	✓	-	-
Tim Warfield	6-4	240	Vista, Calif./Vista	-	✓	-	✓	-
Defensive backs	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Harold James	6-0	210	Osceola, Ark./Osceola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bryant McFadden	6-1	175	Hollywood, Fla./McArthur	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yohance Buchanan	6-2	205	Atlanta/Douglass	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matt Grootegoed	6-0	200	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Tre Orr	6-2	198	Lake City, Fla./Columbia	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Dominique Simms	6-2	195	Minneapolis/De La Salle	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Corey Bailey	6-0	180	Hialeah, Fla./American	-	✓	-	✓	-
Corey Larkins	5-10	170	Opelika, Ala./Opelika	-	-	✓	-	✓
Jason Leach	6-1	190	La Puente, Calif./Bishop Amat	-	✓	-	✓	-
Lawrence Richardson	5-10	175	Galveston Ball, Texas/Galv. Ball	-	✓	✓	-	-
Marley Tucker	6-0	175	Long Beach, Calif./Poly	✓	-	-	-	✓
All-purpose	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	BB	TL	GW	PS	NR
Shyrone Carey	5-9	175	Marrero, La./Archbishop Shaw	-	✓	-	✓	✓
Chad Mascoe	6-2	215	Kissimmee, Fla./Osceola	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Antwoine Lias	6-2	190	Memphis/Melrose	-	-	✓	-	✓

TOP CLASSES BY POSITION

(Rankings by Bobby Burton and Jeremy Crabtree of the National Recruiting Advisor)

Quarterbacks

1. Florida
2. California
3. Texas
4. Florida State
5. Arkansas

Offensive linemen

1. Boston College
2. Michigan State
3. Southern California
4. Nebraska
5. Notre Dame

Running backs

1. Miami, Fla.
2. Ohio State
3. Texas
4. Michigan
5. South Carolina

Defensive linemen

1. Alabama
2. Tennessee
3. UCLA
4. Florida
5. Nebraska

Wide receivers

1. Georgia
2. Miami, Fla.
3. Southern California
4. Texas
5. Oregon

Linebackers

1. Syracuse
2. Southern California
3. Arizona
4. Florida
5. Texas A&M

Tight ends

1. Texas
2. Louisiana State
3. Stanford
4. Washington State
5. Alabama

Defensive backs

1. Texas A&M
2. North Carolina
3. Ohio State
4. Notre Dame
5. Texas

ABOUT THE 'GURUS'

• **Bill Buchalter** is a sports writer for the Orlando Sentinel. To subscribe to his recruiting newsletter, log on to orlandosentinel.com/sports/recruiting.

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TOP CLASSES

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Texas | 6. Texas A&M |
| 2. Ohio State | 7. UCLA |
| 3. Notre Dame | 8. Louisiana St. |
| 4. Alabama | 9. Michigan |
| 5. Georgia | 10. Florida |



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WHERE 1998's TOP PLAYERS SIGNED

(as ranked by our gurus)

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/High School	College Choice
1.	T.J. Duckett	LB	6-3	255	Kalamazoo, Mich./Loy Norrix	Michigan State
2.	Corey Redding	LB	6-5	235	Galena Park, Texas/North Shore	Texas
3.	Chris Simms	QB	6-5	214	Ramapo, N.J./Franklin Lakes	Texas
4.	Gerome Sapp	DB	6-1	200	Houston/Lamar	Notre Dame
5.	Anquan Bolden	QB	6-1	195	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee	Florida State
6.	Nick Maddox	RB	6-0	200	Kannapolis, N.C./Brown	Florida State
7.	Vernon Carey	OL	6-5	330	Miami, Fla./Northwestern	Miami, Fla.
8.	Mike Waddell	DB	6-2	185	Rockingham, N.C./Richmond Co.	North Carolina
9.	Darnell Dockett	DL	6-5	260	Burtonsville, Md./Paint Branch	Florida State
10.	Dontae Walker	RB	5-10	205	Clinton, Miss./Clinton	Mississippi State
11.	Kyle Boller	QB	6-3	200	Newhall, Calif./Hart	California
12.	Paul Arnold	RB	6-0	200	Seattle/Kennedy	Washington
13.	Eric Edwards	TE	6-5	255	Monroe, La./Ouachita Christian	Louisiana State
14.	Reggie Brown	WR	6-2	175	Carrollton, Ga./Carrollton	Georgia
15.	David Paine	DL	6-7	280	Memphis, Tenn./Melrose	Alabama
16.	Lito Sheppard	DB	5-10	175	Jacksonville, Fla./Raines	Florida
17.	Mike Seidman	TE	6-5	230	Westlake Vill., Calif./Wstlk. Vill.	UCLA
18.	Kareem Kelly	WR	6-2	180	Long Beach, Calif./Poly	Southern California
19.	Cedric Cobbs	RB	6-1	212x	Little Rock, Ark./Fair	Arkansas
20.	Bryce Bishop	OL	6-5	305	Miami/Killian	Ohio State
21.	Marcus Reese	LB	6-3	215	San Jose, Calif./Oak Grove	UCLA
22.	Chris Massey	QB	6-1	198	Spiro, Okla./Spiro	Oklahoma State
23.	Bernard Riley	DL	6-3	300	Los Alamitos, Cal./Los Alamitos	Southern California
24.	Durrell Robinson	WR	6-1	203	Spartanburg, S.C./Byrnes	Georgia
25.	Ty Warren	DL	6-4	277	Bryan, Texas/Bryan	Texas A&M
26.	Albert Haynesworth	DL	6-6	310	Hartsville, S.C./Hartsville	Tennessee
27.	William Green	RB	6-1	220	Absecon, N.J./Holy Spirit	Boston College
28.	Andre Johnson	WR	6-3	200	Miami/Senior	Miami, Fla.
29.	Saleem Rasheed	LB	6-3	220	Birmingham, Ala./Shades Valley	Alabama
30.	DeMarco McNeill	DL	6-4	285	Prichard, Ala./Blount	Auburn
31.	Bo Scaife	TE	6-4	225	Denver/Mullen	Texas
32.	Shane Lehmann	OL	6-5	300	Corona, Calif./Corona	UCLA
33.	Kerry Carter	RB	6-2	220	Vaughn, Ontario/Carr	Stanford
34.	C.J. Leak	QB	6-4	212	Charlotte, N.C./Independence	Wake Forest
35.	Constantin Ritzman	DL	6-4	245	Tallahassee, Fla./N. Fla. Christ.	Tennessee
36.	Kendyll Pope	LB	6-2	220	Lake City, Fla./Columbia	Florida State
37.	Daniel Davis	RB	6-0	220	Stafford, Va./Brooke Point	North Carolina
38.	Kenny King	DL	6-4	270	Daphne, Ala./Daphne	Alabama
39.	Kevin Breedlove	OL	6-5	295	Clemson, S.C./Daniel	Georgia
40.	Chris Lewis	QB	6-4	205	Long Beach, Calif./Poly	Stanford
41.	Jason Geathers	ATH	6-2	210	Boca Raton, Fla./Spanish River	Miami, Fla.
42.	Derek Smith	TE	6-6	240	Ft. Thomas, Ky./Highland	Kentucky
43.	Derek Watson	RB	6-1	205	Palmetto, S.C./Palmetto	South Carolina
44.	Cedric Hilliard	DL	6-4	295	Arlington, Texas/Lamar	Notre Dame
45.	Matt Farrior	LB	6-2	225	Etrick, Va./Matoaca	Florida
46.	Sammy Davis	DB	6-0	175	Humble, Texas/Humble	Texas A&M
47.	Ryan Gillis	OL	6-3	315	Bowie, Md./DeMatha	Notre Dame
48.	Colby Freeman	QB	6-3	210	Brownwood, Texas/Brownwood	Texas A&M
49.	Bradie James	LB	6-3	225	West Monroe, La./West Monroe	Louisiana State
50.	Jeff Faine	OL	6-3	310	Sanford, Fla./Seminole	Notre Dame

OTHERS

Name	Pos.	Hometown	High School
Carlton Baker	LB	Belle Glade, Fla.	Glades Central
Rashad Baker	WR	Camden N.J.	Wilson
Arturo Beltran	RB	Abilene, Texas	Abilene
Reggie Benton	RB	Grand Blanc, Mich.	Grand Blanc
Damian Bivens	ATH	Gautier, Miss.	Gautier
Johnny Bizzell	RB	Midwest City, Okla.	Carl Albert
Chris Boggas	OL	Irving, Texas	Irving
Clifton Bowers	LB	Baltimore	Lake Clifton
Eddie Brown	DL	Houston	Eisenhower
Ryan Brown	WR	Portland, Ore.	Tigard
Tony Brown	WR	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	St. Thomas Aquinas
Yulkeith Brown	DB	Miami	Northwest Christian
Tavarus Capers	WR	Miami	Jackson
Jeremy Caudill	OL	Prestonburg, Ky.	Prestonburg
Timmy Chang	QB	Honolulu	St. Louis
Jamaal Clark	WR	St. Louis	Riverview Gardens
Jerome Collins	WR	Wheaton, Ill.	Warrenville South
Chad Cooper	LB	Vienna, Va.	Oakton
Ira Cooper	ATH	Omaha, Neb.	Westside
Jason Crawford	RB	Riverdale, Md.	Parkdale
Silas Daniel	WR	Jacksonville, Fla.	Ribault
Brooks Daniels	LB	Jasper, Fla.	Hamilton County
Jeremiah Davis	DL	Annandale, Va.	Annadale
Scott Davis	DL	Parkersburg, W.Va.	Parkersburg
Adam Doiron	DL	Duncan, Okla.	Duncan
James Dumerville	DL	Miami	Jackson
Austin Dunlap	LB	Iowa City	West
John Dunn	OL	Virginia Beach, Va.	Tallwood
Abram Elam	QB	W. Palm Beach, Fla.	Cardinal Newman
Mike Erickson	OL	Papillon, Neb.	LaVista
B.J. Evangelista	ATH	Murraysville, Pa.	Franklin Regional
Paul Fisher	OL	St. George, Utah	Dixie
M.J. Flaum	OL	Denver	Northglen
Nate French	DL	Moufrole, Ga.	Colquitt County
Anthony Fulcher	RB	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Horizon
Skyler Fulton	ATH	Olympia, Wash.	Capitol
Lionel Garr	OL	Diboll, Texas	Diboll
Jeff Gatson	OL	Bergen, N.J.	Oradell Catholic
Bryan George	DB	Lafayette, La.	Carenbro
Jonathan Golden	RB	Sugar Land, Texas	Clements
Derek Graves	RB	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	Holt
Tyrone Griffin	RB	St. Louis	Sumner
Marques Hagans	ATH	Hampton, Va.	Hampton
Anthony Hallman	RB	Kings Mountain, N.C.	Kings Mountain
Ken Hammonds	DL	Monroe Sun Valley, N.C.	Monroe Sun Valley
Randy Harris	LB	Fort. Worth	Wyatt
LaRon Harrison	LB	Carrollton, Ga.	Carrollton
Alex Haynes	RB	Orlando	Evans
Ryan Hemby	DB	Orangeburg, S.C.	Wilkinson
Devery Henderson	RB	Opelousas, La.	Opelousas
Chris Henry	DL	Houston	Jones
Corey Hicks	RB	Memphis, Tenn.	White Haven
Vernon Hicks	RB	Elaine, Ark.	Elaine
Shaka Hill	LB	Madison, Tenn.	Goodpasture
Justin Hinds	DL	Piscataway, N.J.	Piscataway

RECEIVING VOTES

These 1999 high school seniors received votes from gurus as being among the nation's 100 best prospects but didn't receive enough votes to make the list of Prime Prospects on page 30.

Name	Pos.	Hometown	High School	Name	Pos.	Hometown	High School	Name	Pos.	Hometown	High School
Hobie Holiday	LB	Houston Co., Ga.	Houston Co.	Ken McKoy	OL	Kileen, Texas	Ellison	Brad Rock	QB	Smithtown, N.Y.	Smithtown
Carlyle Holliday	QB	San Antonio	Roosevelt	Micah Minshall	DL	Olathe North, Kan.	Olathe North	Luke Samples	QB	Ronda, N.C.	East Wilkes
Alex Holmes	DL	N. Hollywood, Calif.	Harv. Westlake	Chris Mitchell	OL	Sweet Home, N.Y.	Sweet Home	Ian Scott	DL	Gainesville, Fla.	Gainesville
Larry Howell	WR	Prichard, Ala.	Vigor	Tony Mitchell	DB	Norfolk, Va.	Lake Taylor	Skip Seagraves	OL	Burlington, N.C.	Williams
Ken Irby	QB	Woodbridge, Va.	Hylton	Paul Mociler	OL	Bellflower, Calif.	St. John Bosco	Austin Sendlein	LB	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Chaparral
Jamaica Jackson	RB	Sumter, S.C.	Sumter	Hayden Moore	DL	Marietta, Ga.	Lassiter	Maurice Shanks	WR	Hampton, Va.	Phoebus
Josh Jagers	OL	Danville, Ky.	Danville	Sammy Moore	WR	Mesa, Ariz.	Westwood	Bryan Shumaker	DB	Ackerman, Miss.	Ackerman
Brandon Jamison	DB	Hopkins, S.C.	Lower Richland	Johnnie Morant	WR	Parsippany Hills, N.J.	Parsippany Hills	Jonathan Simo	RB	Shreveport, La.	Loyola
Brandon Joe	RB	Westerville, Ohio	South	Marcel Moses	DL	Texas City, Texas	Texas City	Gerald Smith	ATH	Ellicott City, Md.	Howard
Rayvon Johnson	DB	Annapolis, Md.	Annapolis	Steve Nevarez	OL	San Fernando, Calif.	San Fernando	Fred Staton	RB	West Charlotte, N.C.	West Charlotte
Tim Johnson	DL	Delbarton, N.J.	Delbarton	Jonathon Newcomb	OL	Benton, Ark.	Benton	Alex Stepanovich	OL	Berea, Ohio	Berea
Darius Jones	LB	Beloit, Wis.	Memorial	Pat Norton	ATH	Newhall Hart, Calif.	Newhall Hall	Darren Stephens	DB	Lewisville, Texas	Lewisville
Mark Kornfield	QB	St. Louis	University	Craig Ochs	QB	Boulder, Colo.	Fairview	Quinn Sypniewski	TE	Johnston, Iowa	Johnston
Jermelle Lewis	RB	Bloomfield, Conn.	Bloomfield	O.J. Owens	ATH	New London, N.C.	North Stanly	Adam Taliaferro	DB	Voorhees, N.J.	Eastern
Dustin Long	QB	Port Neches, Texas	Grove	Eric Pears	OL	Denver	J.F. Kennedy	Zach Tuasosopo	TE	Woodinville, Wash.	Woodinville
Matt LoVecchio	QB	Oradell, N.J.	Bergen Catholic	Carlos Perez	WR	Hoboken, N.J.	Hoboken	Matt Ulrich	OL	Streamwood, Ill.	Streamwood
John Lumpkin	DL	Warren, Ohio	Harding	Jeremy Phillips	OL	Watsonville, Ga.	Oconee	Derek Wake	DL	Hyattsville, Md.	DeMatha
Sam Maldonado	RB	Harrison, N.Y.	Harrison	Dan Pohlman	RB	Barrington, Ill.	Barrington	Willie Walden	TE	Seattle	Evergreen
Nick Marmo	OL	New Castle, Pa.	New Castle	Sean Poole	OL	Flint, Mich.	Central	Josh Walker	LB	Tulsa, Okla.	Edison
Rodney Mars	ATH	Laurens, S.C.	Laurens	Jon Pressnell	OL	Lakewood, Ohio	Lakewood	Terrell Walker	WR	Destrehan, La.	Destrehan
Ronald McClendon	ATH	Ponchatoula, La.	Ponchatoula	Jay Ratliff	TE	Valdosta, Ga.	Lowndes	Jonathan Ward	RB	Poway, Calif.	Poway
Jeremy McCorkle	OL	Freeport, Pa.	Freeport	Corterris Reese	WR	Louisville, Ky.	Waggener	Marquise Weeks	RB	Berwyn, Pa.	Conestoga
Rich McFadden	QB	Youngstown, Ohio	Strothers	Jason Respert	OL	Warner-Robins, Ga.	Northside	Dwight Whitfield	DL	St. Louis	Vashon
Lynn McGruder	DL	N. Las Vegas, Nev.	Cheyenne	Walter Reyes	RB	Struthers, Ohio	Struthers	Vince Wilfork	DL	Lantana, Fla.	Santaluces
Chris McKelvy	OL	Lansdale, Pa.	North Penn	Jason Richenberger	LB	Liberty, Mo.	Liberty	Andre Williams	RB	Durham, N.C.	Northern
								Jeremy Williams	DL	Crown Point, Ind.	Crown Point
								Sean Young	OL	Tunnel Hill, Ga.	NW Whitfield
								Andre Zellner	TE	Forsyth, Ga.	Mary Persons

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Ranking the Conferences

By Tom Dienhart

1. SOUTHEASTERN: The fact the league has won two of the last three national titles says it all. The Big Three of Tennessee, Florida and Georgia in the SEC East is unmatched. Alabama will become the fourth team in four years to win the SEC West.

2. BIG TEN: With a subpar quarterbacks picture, the Big Ten will get back to its running roots this year. Several teams have big-time lines and good running backs, headed by Penn State, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio State. What makes Penn State more special than the others is its special teams and defense, which is the nation's best.

3. PACIFIC-10: While Arizona harbors national title hopes, the rest of the league is retooling. The Los Angeles schools could crash the Wildcats' party, but questions on defense and at quarterback must be answered for both. And then there's Arizona State, which could atone for its 1998 flop if its defense rounds into form.

4. BIG 12: In the South Division, Texas A&M and Texas are a cut above the rest. If healthy, Nebraska could reclaim its customary perch atop the league. Don't discount Colorado, which will have one of the league's top defenses and new coach Gary Barnett working in its favor.

5. ATLANTIC COAST: There's Florida State—then everyone else. The Seminoles feel this is their best team since the 1993 edition that won the school's only national title. That's too bad for Georgia Tech, which has its best team since netting a share of the title in 1990. North Carolina's Ronald Curry and North Carolina State's Jamie Barnette join Florida State's Chris Weinke and Tech's Joe Hamilton to give the ACC one of the nation's best collection of quarterbacks.

6. BIG EAST: As Miami improves, maybe those jokes about how bad the Big East is will subside. Even Temple appears to be on the rise. Boston College has a bright future, and Virginia Tech and West Virginia look formidable enough to challenge Miami for the title. Syracuse, Pittsburgh and Rutgers are in various stages of rebuilding.

7. MOUNTAIN WEST: The Western Athletic Conference's loss of eight teams (Brigham Young, Utah, Air Force, Colorado State, Wyoming, San Diego State, UNLV and New Mexico) is the college football world's gain. This is a strong group that will produce quality competition. Like the

good ol' WAC days, BYU has a formidable passing game. And like the good ol' WAC days, BYU figures to rule.

8. CONFERENCE USA: This may be the most underrated league in the nation. If Southern Mississippi (defense) and Louisville (offense) could merge, they might win the national title. Houston could be a surprise team in a league that made a good move by adding Alabama-Birmingham, which could quickly emerge into a quality program.

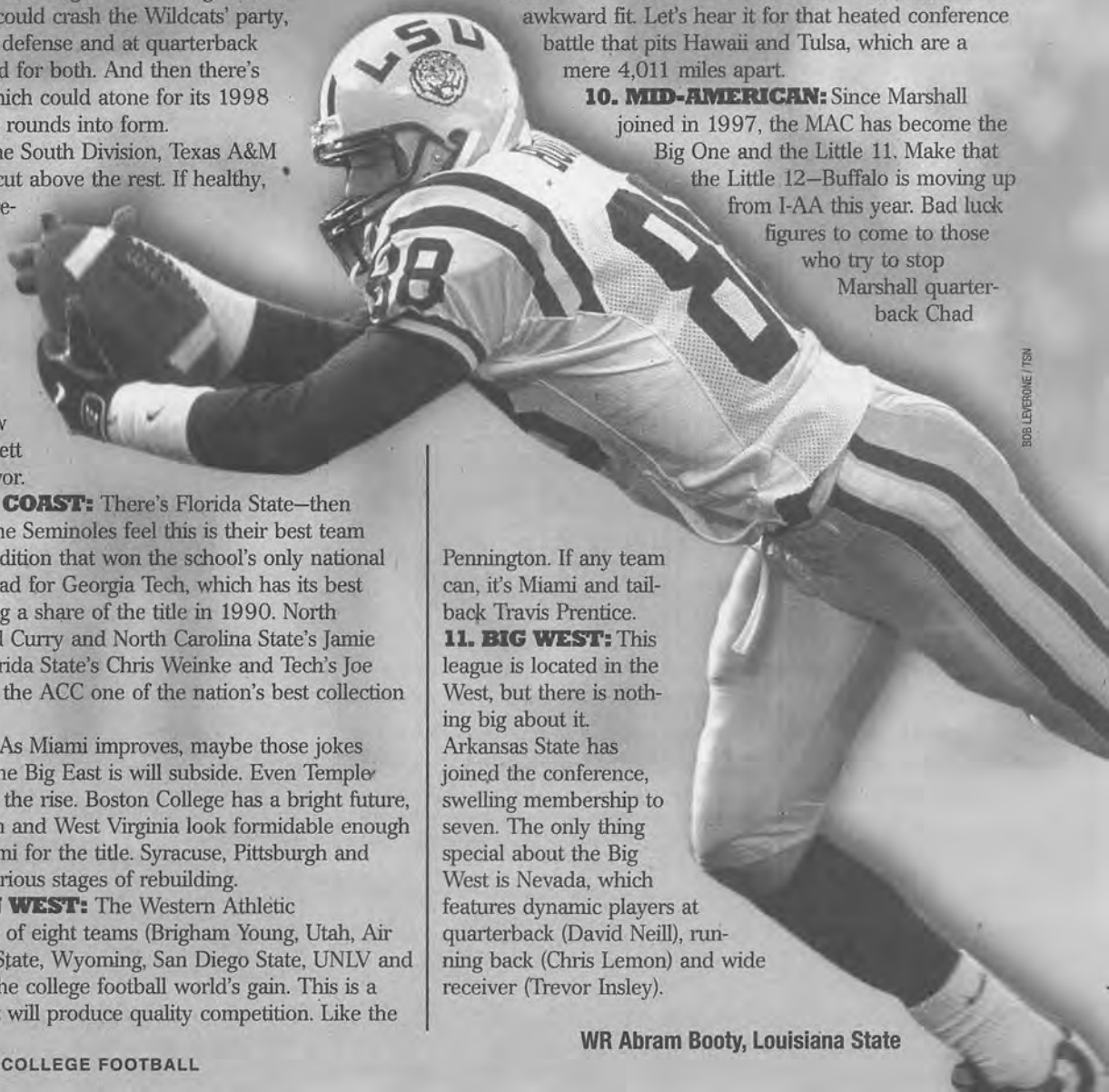
9. WAC: After the dust settled following the defection of eight schools, it wasn't a pretty site. Glimmering in the wreckage is a Fresno State program that should win the conference. Texas Christian and Southern Methodist also are diamonds in the rubble. The rest of the WAC remains an awkward fit. Let's hear it for that heated conference battle that pits Hawaii and Tulsa, which are a mere 4,011 miles apart.

10. MID-AMERICAN: Since Marshall joined in 1997, the MAC has become the Big One and the Little 11. Make that the Little 12—Buffalo is moving up from I-AA this year. Bad luck figures to come to those who try to stop Marshall quarterback Chad

Pennington. If any team can, it's Miami and tailback Travis Prentice.

11. BIG WEST: This league is located in the West, but there is nothing big about it. Arkansas State has joined the conference, swelling membership to seven. The only thing special about the Big West is Nevada, which features dynamic players at quarterback (David Neill), running back (Chris Lemon) and wide receiver (Trevor Insley).

WR Abram Booty, Louisiana State



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

SOUTHEASTERN



TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY BOB HOLT, ARKANSAS GAZETTE, AND MIKE STRANGE, KNOXVILLE (TENN.) NEWS-SENTINEL

What they did in 1998								What they've done in 1990s			
		Conference			Overall						
		W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
East	Tennessee	9-0	295	120	13-0	431	189	90-19	.826	3,673	1,880
	Florida	7-1	246	112	10-2	380	165	93-18	.838	4,121	1,972
	Georgia	6-2	166	156	9-3	292	222	64-39-1	.615	2,735	2,194
	Kentucky	4-4	266	281	7-5	431	375	38-63	.376	2,121	2,792
	Vanderbilt	1-7	66	290	2-9	142	369	29-70	.293	1,516	2,671
	South Carolina	0-8	129	258	1-10	207	330	41-56-3	.410	2,291	2,459
West	Mississippi State	6-3	249	164	8-5	350	256	53-47-2	.519	2,440	2,181
	Arkansas	6-2	254	139	9-3	390	227	47-54	.465	1,991	2,210
	Alabama	4-4	153	176	7-5	251	287	73-36	.670	2,614	1,640
	Mississippi	3-5	137	188	7-5	280	274	59-44	.573	2,192	1,962
	Louisiana State	2-6	206	214	4-7	337	279	51-50-1	.500	2,435	2,204
	Auburn	1-7	124	193	3-8	166	235	67-34-3	.644	2,798	2,072

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS		SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES non-conference, conference
East	1. TENNESSEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receivers, kicker need to emerge. Veteran unit must fight complacency. 	QB Tee Martin RB Jamal Lewis	LB Raynoch Thompson FS Deon Grant	Nov. 6 vs. Notre Dame Sep. 18 at Florida
	2. FLORIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBs are talented, but they're young. New front seven must mature quickly. 	WR Travis Taylor QB Doug Johnson	T Gerard Warren CB Bennie Alexander	Nov. 20 vs. Florida State Sep. 18 vs. Tennessee
	3. GEORGIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBs are unsettled; new tackles are needed. Unit will be less daring minus Champ Bailey. 	QB Quincy Carter G Steve Herndon	LB Orantes Grant T Richard Seymour	Nov. 27 at Georgia Tech Oct. 30 vs. Florida
	4. KENTUCKY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Couch is gone, along with five line starters. Reinforcements needed at tackle slots. 	WR Quentin McCord RB Anthony White	E Dennis Johnson LB Jeff Snedegar	Sep. 4 vs. Louisville Oct. 23 at Georgia
	5. SOUTH CAROLINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New QB must adapt to new system. Veteran front seven must cover for new DBs. 	WR Jermale Kelly RB Boo Williams	LB John Abraham E John Stamper	Sep. 4 at North Carolina St. Oct. 9 vs. Kentucky
	6. VANDERBILT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran unit striving for consistency. LBs must make new 3-4 alignment work. 	C Jeff Barnett RB Rodney Williams	CB Jimmy Williams LB Jamie Winborn	Sep. 25 at Duke Oct. 23 at South Carolina
West	1. ALABAMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QB needs to provide balance to ground game. Veteran line must continue to improve. 	TB Shaun Alexander T Chris Samuels	T Cornelius Griffin LB Travis Carroll	Oct. 30 vs. So. Mississippi Sep. 25 vs. Arkansas
	2. ARKANSAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four new line starters need to emerge. Lack of depth in secondary could be problem. 	WR Anthony Lucas QB Clint Stoerner	S Kenoy Kennedy T D.J. Cooper	Sep. 4 at So. Methodist Sep. 25 at Alabama
	3. LOUISIANA STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Faulk is gone; QB slot big concern. With iffy DBs, stout line must provide pressure. 	WR Abram Booty WR Larry Foster	CB Mark Roman E Jarvis Green	Nov. 13 vs. Houston Nov. 6 at Alabama
	4. MISSISSIPPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depth remains a problem, especially on line. Need to get tougher against the run. 	T Todd Wade QB Romaro Miller	LB Eddie Strong LB Armegis Spearman	Sep. 4 at Memphis Oct. 16 vs. Alabama
	5. MISSISSIPPI STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line depth is iffy; TB needs to emerge. JC transfers need to solidify the line. 	T Floyd Womack QB Wayne Madkin	CB Robert Bean P Jeff Walker	Sep. 18 vs. Oklahoma St. Nov. 20 at Arkansas
	6. AUBURN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receiving corps is extremely thin. Strong line heads an experienced unit. 	T Jeno James TB Montray Carter	E Leonardo Carson T Jimmy Brumbaugh	Nov. 6 vs. Central Florida Oct. 9 vs. Mississippi State

PROJECTED SEC CHAMPION

TENNESSEE

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Quincy Carter, Georgia

When Quincy Carter signed a baseball contract with the Chicago Cubs in 1996, it included a clause preventing him from playing college football for four seasons. But after Carter, a center fielder, struggled in his first two seasons in the minors, the Cubs relented and let him give football a shot, too.

"We thought the best thing for his long-term future and our organization was to let him explore this and get it out of his system," Cubs general manager Ed Lynch said last year.

Instead of getting football out of his system, Georgia's 6-2, 220-pound sophomore quarterback may be on his way to the NFL. Carter's freshman season was supposed to be a rebuilding year for the Bulldogs, but he helped lead them to a

9-3 record and a Peach Bowl victory over Virginia. For what Carter did last year, and what he is expected to do in 1999, he is TSN's choice for preseason SEC offensive player of the year.

Carter, who turns 22 in October, wasn't a typical freshman. He picked up Georgia's offense quickly last season and will have command this year. "I was a little timid to do certain things last year, but I won't be timid now," Carter says. "I feel like I've got a handle on everything now, and I'm a lot more polished on all the mental things about playing quarterback."

Carter says he plans to keep playing college football and pro baseball and see what happens. Before he thinks seriously about his NFL chances, his focus in football is helping Georgia win the SEC championship.

"I feel really good about our offense," Carter says. "We've got a lot of young guys who just need a chance to show what they can do." Like Carter last season. —Bob Holt

DEFENSE



Raynoch Thompson, Tennessee

During Tennessee's national championship run last fall, middle linebacker Al Wilson was frequently singled out for his inspirational leadership and big-play ability. He made first-team All-America. Yet some maintained that Wilson wasn't even the most productive linebacker on his team.

"It's a matter of opinion," says Tennessee defensive coordinator John Chavis. "I've had people tell me 46 is the best linebacker they've seen."

Forty-six in your program and in your face—if you have a football tucked under your arm—is Raynoch Thompson. As a junior outside linebacker, he led Tennessee in tackles and made first-team All-SEC and third-team All-America.

Thompson, from New Orleans, had to sit out his first year as a partial qualifier.

He was an immediate starter in 1997. His only downfall was hitting too hard. Against Texas Tech, he suffered a bruised kidney. A few weeks later against Georgia, it was a broken nose, which he kept secret for several days until the staff noticed persistent bleeding during practice. A few weeks after that, it was a concussion and a bruised eye socket. "He's one of the toughest guys I've ever been around," Chavis says.

Last fall, the 6-3, 217-pound Thompson stayed healthy and his productivity soared. "He had a very good year," Chavis says, "and he needs to have a better year this year." That's because Wilson is gone. Thompson was on guard during the offseason, making sure his teammates didn't fall prey to complacency.

"Everybody is still patting us on the back," Thompson says, "but I try to stay away from that. We can't be happy with what we had."

That's not to say Thompson isn't proud of his team: "I think Tennessee is going to be the epitome of college football for the couple of years coming up." —Mike Strange

PRESEASON

All-Southeastern

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Anthony Lucas, Arkansas	6-3	196	Sr.
WR	Travis Taylor, Florida	6-1	188	Jr.
TE	Joe Dean Davenport, Arkansas	6-7	257	Sr.
T	Chad Clifton, Tennessee	6-6	320	Sr.
T	Chris Samuels, Alabama	6-6	294	Sr.
G	Cosey Coleman, Tennessee	6-5	315	Jr.
G	Terrence Metcalf, Mississippi	6-3	291	So.
C	Zac Zedalis, Florida	6-3	298	Jr.
QB	Quincy Carter, Georgia	6-2	220	So.
RB	Shaun Alexander, Alabama	6-1	205	Sr.
RB	Jamal Lewis, Tennessee	6-0	225	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Leonardo Carson, Auburn	6-3	282	Sr.
E	Shaun Ellis, Tennessee	6-4	275	Sr.
T	Darwin Walker, Tennessee	6-3	290	Sr.
LB	Jamie Winborn, Vanderbilt	6-0	232	So.
LB	Raynoch Thompson, Tennessee	6-3	217	Sr.
LB	Orantes Grant, Georgia	6-1	222	Sr.
LB	Barrin Simpson, Mississippi State	5-11	221	Sr.
CB	Dwayne Goodrich, Tennessee	6-0	185	Sr.
CB	Mark Roman, Louisiana State	6-0	187	Sr.
S	Deon Grant, Tennessee	6-3	205	Jr.
S	Kenoy Kennedy, Arkansas	6-1	195	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Seth Hanson, Kentucky	6-2	195	Jr.
P	Jeff Walker, Mississippi State	5-11	211	Sr.
KR	John Capel, Florida	5-11	163	So.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Abram Booty, Louisiana State	6-2	185	Jr.
WR	Cedrick Wilson, Tennessee	5-10	175	Jr.
TE	Kyle Kipps, Louisiana State	6-5	261	So.
T	Floyd Womack, Mississippi State	6-3	327	Jr.
T	Louis Williams, Louisiana State	6-6	300	Jr.
G	Steve Herndon, Georgia	6-4	288	Sr.
G	Cheston Blackshear, Florida	6-3	284	Sr.
C	Spencer Riley, Tennessee	6-3	305	Sr.
QB	Tee Martin, Tennessee	6-3	215	Sr.
RB	Deuce McAllister, Mississippi	6-2	215	Jr.
RB	Chrys Chukwuma, Arkansas	6-1	225	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Dennis Johnson, Kentucky	6-7	256	So.
E	Jarvis Green, Louisiana State	6-3	261	So.
T	Jimmy Brumbaugh, Auburn	6-1	294	Sr.
T	Gerard Warren, Florida	6-4	303	So.
LB	Travis Carroll, Alabama	6-4	226	Jr.
LB	John Abraham, South Carolina	6-4	247	Sr.
LB	Keith Kelsey, Florida	6-1	252	Sr.
CB	Jimmy Williams, Vanderbilt	5-10	193	Jr.
CB	Bennie Alexander, Florida	5-9	175	So.
S	Arturo Freeman, South Carolina	6-1	198	Sr.
S	Tim Nelson, Mississippi State	5-9	176	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Rob Bironas, Auburn	6-0	197	Jr.
P	Corey Gibbs, Louisiana State	6-0	191	Sr.
KR	Markeith Cooper, Auburn	5-7	160	Sr.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Earnest Graham, RB, Florida

Defense: Cleveland Pinkney, T, South Carolina

1 Tennessee

Site: Knoxville
Coach: Phillip Fulmer (67-11, 7 years)

Offensive coordinator:
 Randy Sanders (1st season)

Defensive coordinator:
 John Chavis (5th season)

Offensive scheme:
 Multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 10

Lettermen lost: 22

Lettermen returning: 49

Stadium: Neyland (grass, 102,854)

Last league title won:
 1998

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1988

1998 TSN rank: 1st

1998 record: 13-0 (beat Florida State in Fiesta Bowl); SEC East: 9-0 (1st, beat Mississippi State in SEC championship game)

1998 RESULTS

at Syracuse, W 34-33
 Florida, W 20-17 (OT)
 Houston, W 42-7
 at Auburn, W 17-9
 at Georgia, W 22-3
 Alabama, W 35-18
 at South Carolina, W 49-14
 Ala-Birmingham, W 37-13
 Arkansas, W 28-24
 Kentucky, W 59-21
 at Vanderbilt, W 41-0
 Mississippi State, W 24-14
 Florida State, W 23-16

SCHEDULE

S4—Wyoming
 S18—at Florida
 S25—Memphis
 O2—Auburn
 O9—Georgia
 O23—at Alabama
 O30—South Carolina
 N6—Notre Dame
 N13—at Arkansas
 N20—at Kentucky
 N27—Vanderbilt

NATIONAL RANK 3

Quarterbacks: Early-season game plans in 1998 were designed with Tee Martin's inexperience in mind. Those days are over; Martin has full command of the playbook. His arm strength is excellent and his decision-making is solid. He won't run the ball much by design, but his mobility is scary.

Like last year, an injury would be disastrous because there are no experienced reserves.

Running backs: Plugger Travis Henry and darter Travis Stephens will have to move over now that Jamal Lewis is back from a knee injury. Make no mistake: Lewis is The Man. The staff may scheme to get a Travis on the field with Lewis, but there's no whole-sale commitment to split backs. Fullback Will Bartholomew is the classic blocker, but Shawn Bryson's speed and hands made him an unusual weapon that will be missed.

Receivers: Peerless Price's difference-making capabilities appear irreplaceable, but the cupboard isn't bare. Among Cedrick Wilson, David Martin, Eric Parker, Donte' Stallworth and speedster Leonard Scott, Tee Martin won't be hurting for targets. Martin to Martin should prove to be a winner. Scott was the NCAA indoor 60-meter champ. Last year's No. 2 quarterback, Burney Veazey, hopes to get in the mix.

Offensive line: This is a physical bunch. Right guard Cozey Coleman is a human bulldozer headed for All-American honors. Martin knows his backside is covered at left tackle by All-SEC pick Chad Clifton. Spencer Riley is a tough nut at center. Phillip Fulmer is always willing to uproot people to get his best five on the field, and that could include converted defensive tackle Fred Weary at tackle or guard.

Defensive line: End Shaun Ellis had a banner 1998. Will Overstreet might be the other end, since he was the most impressive true freshman last fall. Darwin Walker, the strongest man on campus, is a fine tackle. The Vols were fortunate to coax big-play man Billy Ratliff through '98 on bad wheels. If healthy, he's a difference-maker. Academics kept talented rookie tackles John Henderson and Rashad Moore on the shelf in '98, but both practiced and are better sculpted to make an impact.

Linebackers: Two-thirds of the SEC's most productive corps is back, but the hole in the middle left by Al Wilson is significant. Raynoch Thompson is a big-hitting, fast-moving beast on one side, and Eric Westmoreland combines run support and coverage smarts on the other. As for the middle, sophomore Bernard Jackson, a converted end, is the most physical possibility, but hardly the only one.

Secondary: In free safety Deon Grant and corner

Dwayne Goodrich, the Vols are blessed with big-play athletes. Fred White has been a run-stopper at strong safety, but defensive coordinator John Chavis has all sorts of options for getting his best four on the field and it will be hard to keep sophomore safety Tad Golden off it. Finding a starting corner opposite Goodrich is a top priority; Andre Lott is the leader.

Special teams: Without kicker Jeff Hall, there would have been no national championship last season. Whoever wins the job, last-second game-winners no longer can be taken for granted. Punter David



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Tea time: The caution the Vols showed with Martin last season is over; winning a national championship can do that for a quarterback.

Leaverton is trying to get his consistency to measure his leg strength. Scott is a coverage unit's nightmare.

Schedule: The Vols will be hard-pressed to survive trips to Florida, Alabama and Arkansas unscathed. At least Georgia comes to Knoxville. The non-conference slate is highlighted by a visit by Notre Dame. And Wyoming never is an accommodating guest.

Coaching: Fulmer has added veteran hands in Woody McCorvey (running backs) and Larry Slade (secondary). New offensive coordinator Randy Sanders had a smashing debut in the Fiesta Bowl.

Outlook: Tennessee could be even better than last year. Still, repeating as national champions is expecting a lot—maybe too much. The Volunteers benefited from a lot of breaks last season, and the 1999 schedule is formidable.

VOLUNTEERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	David Martin	6-4	210	Jr.	*Donte' Stallworth	6-2	190	Fr.
T	Chad Clifton	6-6	320	Sr.	*Reggie Coleman	6-5	310	Fr.
G	Toby Champion	6-4	305	Jr.	Bernard Gooden	6-3	315	Jr.
C	Spencer Riley	6-3	305	Sr.	*Reggie Ridley	6-4	270	Fr.
G	Cozey Coleman	6-5	315	Jr.	*Tim Hodges	6-8	305	Fr.
T	Josh Tucker	6-4	305	Sr.	*Will Offenheusle	6-8	310	Fr.
TE	John Finlayson	6-4	280	So.	Neil Johnson	6-4	250	Jr.
WR	Cedrick Wilson	5-10	175	Jr.	Eric Parker	6-0	163	So.
QB	Tee Martin	6-3	215	Sr.	*Joey Mathews	6-3	210	Fr.
RB	Jamal Lewis	6-0	225	Jr.	Travis Henry	5-11	220	Jr.
FB	Phillip Crosby	6-1	243	Sr.	Will Bartholomew	6-0	220	So.

DEFENSE

E	Shaun Ellis	6-4	275	Sr.	DeAngelo Lloyd	6-5	255	Jr.
T	Billy Ratliff	6-3	275	Sr.	John Henderson	6-7	280	So.
T	Darwin Walker	6-3	290	Sr.	*Rashad Moore	6-4	290	Fr.
E	Will Overstreet	6-4	250	So.	Rober Alexander	6-3	230	Sr.
OLB	Eric Westmoreland	6-0	215	Jr.	Dominique Stevenson	6-0	215	Jr.
MLB	*Keyon Whiteside	6-2	230	Fr.	Bernard Jackson	6-4	255	So.
OLB	Raynoch Thompson	6-3	217	Sr.	Judd Granzow	6-4	235	Jr.
CB	Andre Lott	5-11	185	Jr.	Maurice Fitzgerald	5-9	180	So.
SS	Fred White	5-11	200	Sr.	Derrick Edmonds	5-10	185	Sr.
FS	Deon Grant	6-3	205	Jr.	Tad Golden	6-1	190	So.
CB	Dwayne Goodrich	6-0	185	Sr.	Gerald Griffin	6-1	182	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Robert Loudermilk	6-2	164	Sr.	P David Leaverton	6-4	210	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

2 Florida

Site: Gainesville
Coach: Steve Spurrier
 (93-18-1, 10 years; 113-31-2 overall, 13 years)
Offensive coordinator:
 Steve Spurrier (10th season)

Defensive coordinator:
 Jon Hoke (1st season)

Offensive scheme:
 Multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 13

Lettermen lost: 23

Lettermen returning: 51

Stadium: Florida Field
 (grass, 83,000)

Last league title won:
 1996

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1990

1998 TSN rank: 5th

1998 record: 10-2 (beat Syracuse in Orange Bowl);
 SEC East: 7-1 (2nd)

1998 RESULTS

Citadel, W 49-10
 NE Louisiana, W 42-10
 at Tennessee, L, 20-17 (OT)
 Kentucky, W 51-35
 at Alabama, W 16-10
 Louisiana State, W 22-10
 Auburn, W 24-3
 Georgia, W 38-7
 at Vanderbilt, W 45-13
 South Carolina, W 33-14
 at Florida State, L 23-12
 Syracuse, W 31-10

SCHEDULE

S4—Western Michigan
 S11—Central Florida
 S18—Tennessee
 S25—at Kentucky
 O2—Alabama
 O9—at Louisiana State
 O16—at Auburn
 O30—Georgia*
 N6—Vanderbilt
 N13—at South Carolina
 N20—Florida State
 *at Jacksonville, Fla.

NATIONAL RANK 5

Quarterbacks: No mind games this time. Steve Spurrier says Doug Johnson will be his man. Johnson, a senior, and junior Jesse Palmer have spent the past two years looking over their shoulder from game to game, sometimes from play to play. Palmer started the first six games last season before suffering a broken collarbone. Johnson missed spring practice because he wasn't recovered from a broken leg suffered in the Orange Bowl. He won Spurrier's approval by opting out of minor league baseball this summer. Florida can win with either guy.

Running backs: Last year the Gators slipped to 10th in the SEC in rushing, in part because Terry Jackson was gimpy. Jackson is gone, and reserve Eugene McCaslin has moved to linebacker. That leaves Robert Gillespie, Earnest Graham, Bo Carroll and Florida State transfer Vannez Gooch to give Spurrier plenty of legs to revive the sprint-draw, a favorite complement to the passing game. Rod Frazier is steady at fullback.

Receivers: Travis McGriff rose to the occasion in 1998, but he's gone. Pencil in Travis Taylor as the next star. Taylor, who had 37 catches last year, will be the first to emerge from the touted 1997 recruiting class, followed closely by Darrell Jackson. Speedsters John Capel and Reche Caldwell are pushing Brian Haugabrook and Steve Shipp, two more '97 signees.

Offensive line: Four starters return, plus two others who have started. Sophomore Kenyatta Walker, a 307-pound right tackle, will emerge as the best lineman. Center Zac Zedalis and guards Cheston Blackshear and Ryan Kalich give Florida a battle-tested interior. Cooper Carlisle, a senior with 14 starts, needs to hold off redshirt freshman Mike Pearson to claim left tackle.

Defensive line: Gerard Warren, a 303-pound mountain, takes over at tackle. Chris Reynolds is a lighter but quicker alternative to veteran Thomas Moody at the other tackle. Derrick Chambers, who has played tackle, figures to start at end. Sophomore Alex Brown, who was expected to become a star at outside linebacker, has been moved to rush end. This will be among the SEC's best lines, but the depth is shaky.

Linebackers: Like the line, this corps must be rebuilt. The impressive conversion of McCaslin to strongside linebacker was the impetus to move Brown to rush end. McCaslin and redshirt freshman Marcus Oquendo-Johnson should adequately man one side, while Keith Kelsey handles the weakside. Sophomore Andra Davis is emerging, and Teddy Sims and Daryl Owens offer depth.

Secondary: This has been a sore spot in recent years, but young talent is emerging. Cornerback Bennie Alexander is the best of the bunch. Robert

Cromartie will play the other corner spot. Strong safety Rod Graddy, who joins Alexander as the only returning starters, is a big hitter. Lester Norwood will be the free safety.

Special teams: Once he got the nod, Jeff Chandler solved the kicking woes last season by hitting 11 of 15 field-goal attempts—but just one from more than 40 yards. Punter David Wasielewski was uneven as a freshman, averaging 40.4 yards. Look for trackman Capel to be among the nation's top return men.

Schedule: Tennessee comes to town, but the Vols



Next in line: The Gators expect—and need—the highly-touted Taylor to become the next go-to receiver in their high-powered offense.

haven't won in Gainesville since 1971. Florida State and Alabama also visit The Swamp. The Gators' toughest SEC road game is at Louisiana State.

Coaching: Spurrier made three offseason hires, the biggest of which was replacing defensive coordinator Bob Stoops, now coach at Oklahoma. Jon Hoke comes from Missouri and must rebuild a unit that lost nine starters. Former Tulane coach Buddy Teevens will handle running backs after Carl Franks was hired as Duke's head coach.

Outlook: Florida might have to score more, considering its young defense. If the Gators put punch back in the running game, that shouldn't be a problem because the passing game will be fine. There's no doubt Florida is a contender for its sixth SEC title of the decade.

GATORS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Travis Taylor	6-1	188	Jr.	John Capel	5-11	163	So.
T	Cooper Carlisle	6-6	299	Sr.	*Mike Pearson	6-7	270	Fr.
G	Ryan Kalich	6-3	302	Sr.	Corey Yarbrough	6-2	294	Sr.
C	Zac Zedalis	6-3	298	Jr.	*David Jorgensen	6-4	279	Fr.
G	Cheston Blackshear	6-3	284	Sr.	Ben Brown	6-5	295	So.
T	Kenyatta Walker	6-5	307	So.	*Mike Pearson	6-7	270	Fr.
TE	Erron Kinney	6-6	266	Sr.	*Aaron Walker	6-6	229	Fr.
WR	Darrell Jackson	6-0	194	Jr.	Brian Haugabrook	6-1	198	So.
QB	Doug Johnson	6-2	217	Sr.	Jesse Palmer	6-2	217	Jr.
TB	*Earnest Graham	5-9	218	Fr.	Robert Gillespie	5-9	177	So.
FB	Rod Frazier	5-11	230	Jr.	Rob Roberts	6-2	243	So.

DEFENSE

E	Derrick Chambers	6-4	280	Jr.	Thaddeus Bullard	6-4	244	Sr.
T	Gerard Warren	6-4	303	So.	Thomas Moody	6-4	286	So.
E	Buck Gurley	6-2	267	Jr.	Jayme Campbell	6-2	264	Jr.
TE	Alex Brown	6-3	248	So.	Anthony Mitchell	6-5	238	Sr.
OLB	*M. Oquendo-Johnson	6-4	197	Fr.	Eugene McCaslin	6-2	219	Sr.
MLB	Andra Davis	6-1	249	So.	Teddy Sims	6-1	238	Jr.
OLB	Keith Kelsey	6-1	252	Sr.	Daryl Owens	5-10	218	Jr.
CB	Robert Cromartie	5-9	176	So.	*Marquis Westbrook	5-8	162	Fr.
SS	Rod Graddy	6-1	198	Jr.	Marquand Manuel	6-0	195	So.
FS	Lester Norwood	6-1	193	So.	*Todd Johnson	6-2	170	Fr.
CB	Bennie Alexander	5-9	175	So.	*Derrick Corker	5-10	167	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jeff Chandler	6-2	208	Jr.	P	David Wasielewski	5-10	222	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

3 Georgia

Site: Athens

Coach: Jim Donnan (24-11, 3 years; 88-32 overall, 9 years)

Offensive coordinator:

Jim Donnan (4th season)

Defensive coordinator:

Kevin Ramsey (1st season)

Offensive scheme:

Multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 11

Lettermen lost: 21

Lettermen returning: 47

Stadium: Sanford (grass, 86,117)

Last league title won:

1982

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996

1998 TSN rank: 13th

1998 record: 9-3 (beat

Virginia in Peach Bowl);

SEC East: 6-2 (3rd)

1998 RESULTS

Kent, W 56-3

at South Carolina, W 17-3

Wyoming, W 16-9

at Louisiana St., W 28-27

Tennessee, L 22-3

Vanderbilt, W 31-6

at Kentucky, W 28-26

Florida, L 38-7

at Auburn, W 28-17

Mississippi, W 24-17

Georgia Tech, L 21-19

Virginia, W 35-33

SCHEDULE

S4—Utah State

S11—South Carolina

S25—Central Florida

O2—Louisiana State

O9—at Tennessee

O16—at Vanderbilt

O23—Kentucky

O30—Florida*

N13—Auburn

N20—at Mississippi

N27—at Georgia Tech

*at Jacksonville, Fla.

NATIONAL RANK
15

Quarterbacks: Unlike last year, there's no doubt about the man: Quincy Carter. Three quarterbacks have transferred in the past year, leaving a question as to who will be Carter's caddy. Carter's return from a two-year baseball hiatus was a big success; he won SEC Freshman of the Year honors. He's mobile,

has a strong arm and is the league's most-feared quarterback. His so-so pass-efficiency rating (140.1) should improve with experience.

Running backs: Nagging injuries have been a factor in why two highly touted native sons have yet to make an impact. If Patrick Pass and Jasper Sanks can stay healthy, fans will get a chance to see if they are the real deal. Sanks has lost weight, a positive sign. If neither comes through, holdovers Robert Arnaud or Nick Callaway may be the top dog.

Receivers: The top four receivers are gone, including Champ Bailey, so Carter has to find a new go-to man. Michael Greer, Jermaine Phillips and Thad Parker will start the season in the rotation, but touted recruits Reggie Brown and Durrell Robinson may earn time. Larry Brown and Jermaine Wiggins gave Georgia a splendid tight end tandem that will be impossible to replace, but Javaris Johnson has promise.

Offensive line: Now that star tackles Chris Terry and Matt Stinchcomb are gone, Carter's mobility may become more of an advantage. Kelvin Williams is a natural to take over one tackle vacancy, but the other spot is uncertain. A good bet is that guard Jonas Jennings will move to tackle with Reggie Stargill filling Jennings' old spot. Center Miles Luckie's injuries had a negative effect last fall. If he stays healthy, Steve Herndon and the other guard will benefit.

Defensive line: Replacing pass-rush end Antonio Cochran is the most pressing need, although two other starters also are gone. Dustin Luckie and Adrian Hollingshed, once starters at linebacker, have moved to end and joined Demetric Evans and Terin Smith in a four-man rotation. Richard Seymour, Marcus Stroud and Brandon Miller are adequate tackles. Also back is Josh Mallard, who surprised by leading the team with six sacks last year. Newcomer Charles Grant could figure in the mix if he's not at linebacker.

Linebackers: This figured to be the defense's strong point, with returning starters Orantes Grant, Luckie and Hollingshed. But Grant is the only one who remains at linebacker. The confidence to move Luckie and Hollingshed to end speaks volumes for Boss Bailey and William Witherspoon. Mike Luckie, redshirt freshmen Tony Gilbert and Kawika Mitchell and true freshman Jessie Miller should be fine backups.

Secondary: There is no way to replace Champ

Bailey at cornerback. Jeff Harris and Tim Wansley, plus junior college transfer Jamie Henderson, will man the corners for new defensive coordinator/secondary coach Kevin Ramsey, who will install a more aggressive scheme. Earl Chambers has big shoes to fill in replacing Kirby Smart at strong safety.

Special teams: The cast returns, with Hap Hines on field goals, Chad Holleman on kickoffs and Wynn Kopp punting. Georgia's punting net of 32.4 yards last season was poor, but opponents averaged 1.4 yards per return, fewest in the league.



Staying put: The decision to keep Grant at linebacker makes sense; he had 120 tackles (80 solo) from the position last season.

Schedule: The Dawgs will travel to Tennessee, which has won the last eight meetings between the schools. Season-ending trips to Mississippi and Georgia Tech look tough.

Coaching: Jim Donnan has lifted Georgia out of the doldrums and, thanks to fine recruiting, the future glows with promise. Donnan gambled by replacing Joe Kines as defensive coordinator with Ramsey, who was Tennessee's secondary coach. Ramsey is a good recruiter who relates well to players, but he has not been a coordinator. Donnan lost offensive line coach Chris Scelfo (Tulane coach) and secondary coach Mickey Matthews (Baylor defensive coordinator).

Outlook: Georgia is back on solid ground, but it will be tough to budge SEC East giants Tennessee and Florida, which show no signs of slacking off.

BULLDOGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Michael Greer	5-10 173	Jr. LaBrone Mitchell	6-1 193	So.
T Jonas Jennings	6-4 311	Jr. *George Foster	6-5 310	Fr.
G Steve Herndon	6-4 288	Sr. Brad Register	6-5 269	Jr.
C Miles Luckie	6-0 284	Sr. Brady Pate	6-5 273	Jr.
G Reggie Stargill	6-2 283	Jr. *Keith Stephens	6-1 310	Fr.
T Kelvin Williams	6-5 289	Sr. *Jon Stinchcomb	6-6 265	Fr.
TE Javaris Johnson	6-6 243	Jr. Randy McMichael	6-3 218	So.
WR Thad Parker	5-9 155	Jr. Jermaine Phillips	6-1 199	Jr.
QB Quincy Carter	6-2 220	So. Jon England	6-1 202	Sr.
RB Robert Arnaud	5-11 199	Sr. Patrick Pass	5-11 210	Sr.
RB Jasper Sanks	6-0 228	So. Brett Millican	5-11 190	Jr.

DEFENSE

E Dustin Luckie	6-1 239	Sr. Terin Smith	6-3 228	So.
T Richard Seymour	6-6 288	Jr. Josh Mallard	6-3 250	So.
T Marcus Stroud	6-6 297	Jr. Brandon Miller	6-1 300	Sr.
E Adrian Hollingshed	6-2 230	Jr. Demetric Evans	6-4 280	Jr.
OLB Orantes Grant	6-1 222	Sr. Ryan Fleming	6-1 231	So.
MLB William Witherspoon	6-1 210	So. Mike Luckie	6-0 240	Sr.
OLB Boss Bailey	6-3 213	So. *Kawika Mitchell	6-2 240	Fr.
CB Jeff Harris	6-0 175	Sr. Cory Robinson	5-11 187	Jr.
SS Earl Chambers	6-0 197	Sr. *Terreal Bierria	6-3 208	Fr.
FS Larry Mann	6-2 192	Sr. *Cap Bunett	6-2 210	Fr.
CB Tim Wansley	5-8 180	So. Jamie Henderson	6-2 185	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Hap Hines	5-8 175	Sr. P Wynn Kopp	5-10 175	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

4 Kentucky

NATIONAL RANK
66

Site: Lexington
Coach: Hal Mumme (12-11, 2 years; 77-38-1 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Hal Mumme (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Major (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 13
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 53
Stadium: Commonwealth (grass, 68,000)
Last league title won: 1976 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 32nd
1998 record: 7-5 (lost to Penn State in Outback Bowl); SEC East: 4-4 (4th)

1998 RESULTS

at Louisville, W 68-34
Eastern Kentucky, W 52-7
Indiana, W 31-27
at Florida, L 51-35
at Arkansas, L 27-20
South Carolina, W 33-28
at Louisiana St., W 39-36
Georgia, L 28-26
Mississippi State, W 37-35
Vanderbilt, W 55-17
at Tennessee, L 59-21
Penn State, L 26-14

SCHEDULE

S4—Louisville
S11—Connecticut
S18—at Indiana
S25—Florida
O2—Arkansas
O9—at South Carolina
O16—Louisiana State
O23—at Georgia
N4—at Mississippi State
N13—at Vanderbilt
N20—Tennessee

Quarterbacks: Coach Hal Mumme will call his first play in Lexington without Tim Couch, who passed up his senior year and went to the NFL. Sophomore Dusty Bonner has been in the system longest and emerged from spring practice ahead of redshirt freshmen Mike Scipione and Chase Harp.

However, true freshman Jared Lorenzen, the state's Mr. Football, has the most impressive credentials. If you're going with a newcomer, why not wait until August and give Lorenzen every chance to prove he's the best bet?

Running backs: This is the offense's strength, but it's not a running attack. Fullback Derek Homer and halfback Anthony White combined to rush for 1,153 yards and catch 119 passes last year. Homer is the better runner and a frequent outlet in the passing game (41 catches in '98). White caught 78 passes.

Receivers: Couch's favorite target, Craig Yeast, also is gone. Yeast averaged 119 yards receiving per game in 1998. Garry Davis steps into the go-to receiver's spot, but he lacks big-play potential. Quentin McCord and Jimmy Robinson are proven targets, and the coaches expect immediate help from some true freshmen. Between James Whalen and true freshmen Bobby Blizzard and Derek Smith, the tight ends will be featured prominently.

Offensive line: All five starters are gone. Matt Brown should be fine at right tackle, where he finished '98 after Kris Comstock was suspended. After that, Wildcats fans (not to mention the new quarterback) might want to hold their breath. At least the pool of candidates got some experience last year. One or two true freshmen will get a chance to play, if not start.

Defensive line: Good news at end, not so good at tackle. Heralded Dennis Johnson did not disappoint in his debut last year and should develop into a force at one end. Both of last year's tackles are gone, however. But Gordon Crowe, who got stronger and quicker in the offseason, has moved from end to help fill the void. George Massey is a lock to win the other job, but depth is shaky. Jimmy Haley has been moved from tight end to help.

Linebackers: Jeff Snedegar heads an experienced group of returning starters. Marlon McCree joins Snedegar on the outside, with John Rader in the middle. McCree led the Wildcats with six sacks in '98. Ryan Murphy pushed Rader in the spring and will see duty. This group is solid but not among the SEC's best.

Secondary: This remains a problem area on a problem unit. Willie Gary's return at free safety will help, provided knee surgery hasn't slowed him. Strong safety David Johnson, a sophomore, could develop into a solid defensive back. At corner, speedy Kenneth Grant,

Jeremy Bowie and Eric Kelly are the best of a suspect crew. The pass rush better show some teeth and not leave the secondary hanging.

Special teams: Kentucky will miss Yeast's kickoff-return skills. Mumme would rather punt out of bounds than risk a return, hence Kentucky had only 15 punts returned for a 4.7-yard average last season. If new punter Andy Smith shows a deep leg, Mumme might kick downfield since he feels better about his coverage teams after three recruiting seasons. Seth Hanson, who hit 11 of 15 field-goal attempts last season, is the best



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Let's go, guys: With most of last season's offense gone, it's time for Snedegar and his defensive mates to step up.

kicker in the SEC.

Schedule: A killer home slate: Louisville, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana State and Tennessee. Games at South Carolina, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt might be where a bowl bid is won or lost.

Coaching: Although Mumme is an offensive-minded coach, give him credit for slanting recruiting toward improving the defense. On the downside, while Mumme's sometimes unconventional strategies are refreshing, his penchant for fourth-down gambles occasionally puts his defense in trouble. Turnovers remain a problem; the Wildcats were minus-11 last year.

Outlook: With seven defensive starters back, it's time for marked improvement. However, subtract Couch, Yeast and the offensive line, and matching last year's seven victories will be difficult, if not impossible.

WILDCATS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Garry Davis	6-2	202	Jr.	Dougie Allen	5-10	168	So.
T	Matt Brown	6-5	304	So.	Roger Sullivan	6-4	253	Jr.
G	Aaron Daniel	6-3	272	Jr.	*Matt Burke	6-6	288	Fr.
C	Nolan DeVaughn	6-5	306	So.	Derrick Johnson	6-2	298	So.
G	Josh Parrish	6-6	317	So.	*Tramaine Gaines	6-4	302	Fr.
T	Omar Smith	6-3	285	Jr.	*Matt Burke	6-6	288	Fr.
TE	James Whalen	6-4	231	Sr.	Bobby Blizzard	6-7	265	Fr.
WR	Quentin McCord	5-10	183	Jr.	Mike Beirne	6-3	201	So.
QB	Dusty Bonner	6-2	206	So.	*Mike Scipione	6-6	233	Fr.
RB	Anthony White	6-1	187	Sr.	Kendrick Shanklin	5-9	164	So.
FB	Derek Homer	5-11	197	Jr.	A.J. Simon	5-11	231	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Anwar Stewart	6-3	244	Sr.	Grayson Smith	6-1	241	Jr.
T	Gordon Crowe	6-3	284	Sr.	Jimmy Haley	6-3	245	Sr.
T	George Massey	6-3	280	Sr.	*John Robinson	6-4	280	Fr.
E	Dennis Johnson	6-7	256	So.	Matt Layow	6-3	237	Jr.
OLB	Jeff Snedegar	6-2	243	Sr.	Jamal White	6-3	216	So.
MLB	John Rader	6-5	238	Jr.	Ryan Murphy	6-2	236	So.
OLB	Marlon McCree	6-1	205	Jr.	Ronnie Riley	6-2	213	So.
CB	Eric Kelly	5-11	190	Jr.	Jeremy Bowie	5-10	181	Jr.
SS	David Johnson	6-0	195	So.	Patrick Wiggins	6-0	187	So.
FS	Willie Gary	5-10	187	Jr.	Anthony Wajda	6-4	186	So.
CB	Kenneth Grant	6-0	200	Jr.	Nick Heald	5-9	173	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Seth Hanson	6-2	195	Jr.	P	Andy Smith	6-3	215	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

5 South Carolina

Site: Columbia
Coach: Lou Holtz (first year; 216-95-7 overall, 28 years)
Offensive coordinator: Skip Holtz (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Charlie Strong (1st season)
Offensive scheme: I-formation
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 13
Lettermen lost: 14
Lettermen returning: 48
Stadium: Williams-Brice (grass, 80,250)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1998 TSN rank: 104th
1998 record: 1-10; SEC East: 0-8 (6th)

1998 RESULTS

Ball State, W 38-20
 Georgia, L 17-3
 Marshall, L 24-21
 Mississippi State, L 38-0
 at Mississippi, L 30-28
 at Kentucky, L 33-28
 Arkansas, L 41-28
 at Vanderbilt, L 17-14
 Tennessee, L 49-14
 at Florida, L 33-13
 at Clemson, L 28-19

SCHEDULE

S4—at North Carolina St.
 S11—at Georgia
 S18—East Carolina
 S25—at Mississippi State
 O2—Mississippi
 O9—Kentucky
 O16—at Arkansas*
 O23—Vanderbilt
 O30—at Tennessee
 N13—Florida
 N20—Clemson
 *at Little Rock, Ark.

NATIONAL
RANK
77

Quarterbacks: With 1998 a lost cause, the Gamecocks began looking to the future. Phil Petty, heir apparent to Anthony Wright, saw extensive action. Petty looked good at times—and like a freshman at times. His mobility is limited. Becoming more consistent is Petty's main goal.

Running backs: New coach Lou Holtz is adamant about improving the running game; the Gamecocks averaged only 3.3 yards per rush last season. That goal became more difficult when Holtz suspended leading rusher Troy Hambrick in the spring. That leaves Boo Williams, who was going to be shifted to receiver. Williams lacks Hambrick's punch and sometimes gets bogged down running east-west. Fullback Antione Nesmith is a power-oriented option. Derek Watson, South Carolina high schools' 1998 Mr. Football, could play a role.

Receivers: Jermale Kelly assumes the go-to role with the departure of Zola Davis. Kelly is a quality receiver capable of making big plays. Kerry Hood and Ben Fleming are veterans, and Brian Scott could see playing time. Trevon Matthews is back at tight end.

Offensive line: The Gamecocks paid a big price last fall for playing so many youngsters. Guard Philip Jones and tackle Melvin Paige are better for it. But guard Kevin Rivers, a returning starter, left the team for personal reasons in the spring. Junior college transfer Tim Bell will fill a guard spot, while Scott Browne will be the center. There is no shortage of bodies, but Holtz was disappointed in the unit's lack of strength. Converted defensive tackle Kevin Johnson has a chance to start at tackle because of his muscle.

Defensive line: End John Abraham, a pass rusher deluxe, has been moved to outside linebacker. The progress of end Kalimba Edwards made the move possible, although Abraham still will be heavily involved in the pass rush. Cleveland Pinkney, a prized junior college transfer, should be a force at tackle, while John Stamper is a big-time end. With Cecil Caldwell back at tackle, this unit has a chance to make much-needed improvement. In '98, the Gamecocks were last in the league vs. the run and recorded a SEC-low 13 sacks.

Linebackers: This is a sore spot. Other than outside linebacker Corey Atkins, the Gamecocks were forced to rely on young pups last year—and it showed. Switching Abraham to outside linebacker strengthens the position, if the move sticks. This will remain a young group, but Andre Offing and Kenneth Harney ought to be more effective.

Secondary: The return of free safety Arturo Freeman from an injury that caused him to redshirt last season is a big bonus. Freeman is an All-SEC-cal-

iber talent. His return improves two positions since Ray Green can return to his natural slot, strong safety. Both corner jobs are up for grabs, with Kevin House, Sheldon Brown and Rashad Faison competing. Don't be surprised if Freeman assumes a corner spot. The Gamecocks intercepted just five passes last fall. Freeman picked off six in 1997.

Special teams: Steve Florio, recovered from a back injury, should give the Gamecocks a better alternative than Courtney Leavitt, who hit just 4 of 12 field-goal attempts last year. Leavitt can stick to punting; he



Carrying a big load: Williams, who isn't a physical runner, could carry the ball often in an attack that aims to establish the run.

ranked second in the SEC with a 42.7-yard average.

Schedule: With trips to North Carolina State, Georgia and Mississippi State among the first four games, expect a slow start. It again may be a long year, considering the rest of the slate includes going to Tennessee and playing host to Florida.

Coaching: At 62, Holtz seemed an unlikely hire for a rescue operation that is going to take time. If nothing else, he gives the program credibility. Son Skip is the offensive coordinator. Defensive coordinator Charlie Strong has been a coordinator at Notre Dame.

Outlook: The Gamecocks, last in the SEC with a minus-13 turnover margin last season, will be better, but by how much? Without a ground game, Petty will be pressured to throw too much. Fourth place may be a dream.

GAMECOCKS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Jermale Kelly	6-2	208	Sr.	Brian Scott	6-3	192	Jr.
T Trey Pennington	6-5	255	Sr.	Kevin Johnson	6-3	315	Sr.
G Tim Bell	6-2	280	Jr.	*Cedric Williams	6-3	280	Fr.
C Scott Browne	6-2	260	Jr.	*Michael Blakely	6-4	260	Fr.
QB Philip Jones	6-2	275	So.	Dennis Thomas	6-1	265	Jr.
T Melvin Paige	6-4	315	So.	Jim Pietrzak	6-4	262	Jr.
TE Trevon Matthews	6-2	245	Sr.	Jim Levandusky	6-4	235	Sr.
WR Kerry Hood	6-1	195	Sr.	Carlos Spikes	6-0	186	So.
QB Phil Petty	6-3	195	So.	*Kyle Crabb	6-4	218	So.
TB Boo Williams	5-11	211	Sr.	*Nate Gary	6-0	195	Fr.
FB Antione Nesmith	5-10	208	So.	*Jonathan Martin	5-10	202	Fr.

DEFENSE

E John Stamper	6-5	250	So.	Matt Marsters	6-4	232	Sr.
T Cecil Caldwell	6-1	268	Sr.	David Overstreet	6-2	250	Jr.
NT Cleveland Pinkney	6-1	270	Jr.	Larrell Johnson	6-3	270	So.
E Kalimba Edwards	6-5	230	So.	*Dennis Quinn	6-4	230	Fr.
OLB John Abraham	6-4	247	Sr.	Marco Hutchinson	6-0	233	Jr.
ILB Kenneth Harney	6-2	220	So.	Andre Offing	6-1	238	Jr.
ILB Corey Atkins	6-1	230	Sr.	Shannon Wadley	6-1	230	So.
CB Sheldon Brown	5-10	175	So.	*Rashad Faison	5-9	185	Fr.
SS Ray Green	6-3	190	Sr.	Willie Offord	6-2	200	So.
FS Arturo Freeman	6-1	198	Sr.	O'Rondai Cox	6-0	175	So.
CB Kevin House	5-11	170	So.	Keith Knag	5-10	180	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Steve Florio	5-9	193	Sr.	P Courtney Leavitt	5-11	195	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

6 Vanderbilt

Site: Nashville
Coach: Woody Widenhofer
 (5-17, 2 years; 17-48-1 overall, 6 years)
Offensive coordinator:
 Steve Crosby (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator:
 Dino Folino (1st season)
Offensive scheme:
 Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 14
Lettermen returning: 44
Stadium: Vanderbilt
 (grass, 41,600)
Last league title won:
 none
Last bowl appearance:
 1982
1998 TSN rank: 99th
1998 record: 2-9; SEC
 East: 1-7 (5th)

1998 RESULTS

at Mississippi St., L 42-0
 at Alabama, L 32-7
 Mississippi, L 30-6
 at Tex. Christian, L 19-16 (OT)
 Western Michigan, L 27-24
 at Georgia, L 31-6
 South Carolina, W 17-14
 Duke, W 36-33 (OT)
 Florida, L 45-13
 at Kentucky, L 55-17
 Tennessee, L 41-0

SCHEDULE

S4—Alabama
 S11—Northern Illinois
 S18—at Mississippi
 S25—at Duke
 O2—Mississippi State
 O9—The Citadel
 O16—Georgia
 O23—at South Carolina
 N6—at Florida
 N13—Kentucky
 N27—at Tennessee

NATIONAL RANK
84

Commodores passed for eight touchdowns and threw 20 interceptions last year. David Wallace, who took some lumps as a true freshman last season, likely will get another chance.

Running backs: Vanderbilt's ever-changing offensive philosophy reflects a sense of desperation. This fall, the Commodores will return to a two-back set. Tailback Rodney Williams could be productive, given a better line. Jared McGrath has shown flashes. Some sets will employ a fullback, others an H-back. Tailback Lew Thomas could beef up and become the fullback by default. Todd Yoder, formerly a receiver, has the inside track at H-back.

Receivers: No Commodores receivers ranked among the SEC's top 25 in receiving yards or catches per game last year. Tavarus Hogans, Nezih Hasanoglu and tight end Elliott Carson are the top targets in the conference's least-productive passing game.

Offensive line: The line play has been an undistinguished facet of an undistinguished offense. One promising note: Michael Saltsman returns at right guard after missing the '98 season. He was considered to be the team's best lineman before he got hurt. Another promising note: Tackles Raminte' Byndom and Brian Gruber and center Jeff Barnett offer experience the unit hasn't seen in years. Improvement should be expected, and the depth looks better.

Defensive line: The move to a 3-4 alignment makes lack of depth, especially at the ends, less of a problem. Last year's best player, Alphonso Harvey, is gone. Tackle Ryan Aulds, a dependable player, is back. The Commodores need improvement, but size and athletic ability remain persistent problems.

Linebackers: Jamie Winborn, as advertised, was a playmaker as a redshirt freshman. He was a runaway winner as the SEC's leading tackler last season, with 131, including 79 unassisted. Lamont Turner also is a quality player, who along with Matt Stewart, should be better with a year under his belt. The search for a fourth starter in the new 3-4 alignment will continue into fall practices.

Secondary: After a few years of giving foes fits, the Commodores were an easy mark last fall. Quality in the secondary dropped off, and it remains to be seen if significant improvement can be expected now that cornerback Fred Vinson is gone. Former tailback Jimmy

Quarterbacks: Greg Zolman, clearly the most productive passer in '98 among an untested corps, has the job to lose. Zolman is an athletic lefty with some zip, but he is far from polished. He's fighting an uphill battle considering there is little big-play potential at the other skill positions. Bottom line: The

Williams should be better with a year of experience at cornerback. A great athlete, he led the team in interceptions with four during his transition year.

Special teams: John Markham attempted only 15 extra points last year, but he got plenty of opportunity on field-goal attempts, hitting 13 of 21. Joe Webb's 37.6-yard punting average ranked ninth in the SEC. Williams did well with his ample kickoff return opportunities, averaging 23.4 yards. Alvin Duke was good for 10.3 yards a pop on punt returns.

Schedule: At least the Tennessee game is in



Yes, but ... Aulds is dependable, but the Commodores need more than dependable players to compete with the big boys of the SEC.

Knoxville, sparing the Commodores the sight of their own stadium being awash in orange. Non-conference games with Northern Illinois, Duke and The Citadel are winnable.

Coaching: Vanderbilt continues to struggle on offense. Nothing has worked since Gerry DiNardo's option game left town after the 1994 season. No one questions Woody Widenhofer's defensive schemes, but the defense hasn't been nearly as effective since DiNardo's recruits dried up. The unit went from first in the SEC in '97 to worst (441.2 yards, 33.5 points allowed) in '98. Secondary coach Dino Folino is the new defensive coordinator in the wake of Norm Parker's departure.

Outlook: It looks grim unless the offense can control the ball and limit the defense's exposure.

COMMODORES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Tavarus Hogans	5-10	191	Sr.	Anthony Jones	6-2	175	So.
T	Brian Gruber	6-7	305	Jr.	J.P. Fougerousse	6-3	268	So.
G	Darren Rothenberg	6-3	211	Jr.	Jim May	6-4	305	Fr.
C	Jeff Barnett	6-3	270	Sr.	Dustin Wuest	6-3	272	Fr.
G	Michael Saltsman	6-4	290	Jr.	Matt Hill	6-6	318	Jr.
T	Raminte' Byndom	6-4	300	Sr.	Pat Green	6-7	332	Jr.
TE	Elliott Carson	6-5	250	Jr.	Tom Simone	6-5	237	Fr.
WR	Nezih Hasanoglu	6-3	212	So.	Dan Stricker	6-3	190	Fr.
QB	Greg Zolman	6-4	198	So.	David Wallace	6-4	215	So.
TB	Rodney Williams	5-11	215	So.	Jared McGrath	5-10	203	Jr.
FB	Lew Thomas	6-0	212	So.	Todd Yoder	6-4	234	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Doyle Crosby	6-4	278	So.	Wally Conyers	6-7	251	So.
NT	Ryan Aulds	6-3	252	Jr.	Tyler Unzicker	6-1	270	So.
E	Chuck Losey	6-4	255	So.	Russ Nicoll	6-5	302	Jr.
OLB	Matt Stewart	6-4	228	Jr.	Reggie Washington	6-3	246	So.
ILB	Jamie Winborn	6-0	232	So.	Anthony Ford	6-2	228	So.
ILB	Lamont Turner	6-1	235	Sr.	Antuan Bradford	6-0	218	So.
OLB	Nate Morrow	6-3	236	So.	Brandon Walthour	6-3	218	Fr.
CB	Jimmy Williams	5-10	193	Jr.	Rushen Jones	6-1	190	Fr.
SS	Ainsley Battles	5-11	193	Sr.	Jerrold Jackson	6-2	195	Fr.
FS	Harold Lercius	5-11	192	So.	Brooks Collins	6-1	206	Jr.
CB	Brian Taylor	5-11	191	So.	Aaron McWhorter	6-1	188	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	John Markham	6-1	210	Jr.	P	Joe Webb	6-3	192	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

1 Alabama

Site: Tuscaloosa

Coach: Mike DuBose (11-12, 2 years)

Offensive coordinator: Neil Callaway (2nd season)

Defensive coordinator: Ellis Johnson (4th season)

Offensive scheme:

Multiple

Defensive scheme:

Multiple

Starters lost: 7

Lettermen lost: 32

Lettermen returning: 39

Stadium: Bryant-Denny (grass, 83,818) and Legion Field (grass, 83,091)

Last league title won: 1992

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997

1998 TSN rank: 37th

1998 record: 7-5 (lost to Virginia Tech in Music City Bowl); SEC West: 4-4 (3rd)

1998 RESULTS

Brigham Young, W 38-31

Vanderbilt, W 32-7

at Arkansas, L 42-6

Florida, L 16-10

Mississippi, W 20-17 (OT)

East Carolina, W 23-22

at Tennessee, L 35-18

So. Mississippi, W 30-20

at Louisiana St., W 22-16

at Mississippi St., L 26-14

Auburn, W 31-17

Virginia Tech, L 38-7

SCHEDULE

S4—at Vanderbilt

S11—Houston*

S18—Louisiana Tech*

S25—Arkansas

O2—at Florida

O16—at Mississippi

O23—Tennessee

O30—So. Mississippi

N6—Louisiana State

N13—Mississippi State

N20—at Auburn

*at Birmingham

NATIONAL
RANK
16

Quarterbacks: Sophomore Andrew Zow and redshirt freshman Tyler Watts have Tide coaches smiling. Zow was expected to keep the seat warm last season for Watts, but the athletic Zow played better than expected. Zow has a stronger arm and is more mobile than Watts, who is a more accurate passer and has a strong grasp of

the position. It looks like a win-win situation, as Mike DuBose says both will play this fall.

Running backs: All-SEC tailback Shaun Alexander considered going pro but opted to return for what should be a big senior season. Redshirt freshman Ahmaad Galloway is developing fast and may win a reserve spot behind Alexander. True freshman Brandon Miree also may get playing time. Fullbacks Dustin McClintock and Marvin Brown will split time.

Receivers: Sophomores Freddie Milons, a converted quarterback, and Eric Locke need to emerge as quality replacements for Quincy Jackson and Michael Vaughn. Milons is one of the team's best athletes and should be a big-play guy. Shamari Buchanan is back after redshirting last season because of a shoulder injury. Former linebacker Terry Jones Jr. is the likely tight end, a position the Tide wants to get more involved in the offense.

Offensive line: Every starter returns, led by All-SEC left tackle Chris Samuels, who has started 30 consecutive games. Also back are guards Jason McDonald and Griff Redmill, center Paul Hogan and tackle Will Cuthbert, who may start at guard in place of McDonald, who is coming off knee surgery. That would open right tackle for Kenric Lott. Depth could be a problem, but this is a solid, experienced group.

Defensive line: Tackle Cornelius Griffin and ends Kenny Smith and Kindal Moorehead are big-play guys who have experience, size and speed. Nose tackle Jamie Carter is solid, while touted 6-7 true freshman David Paine is good enough to provide immediate help, even with so many returning starters.

Linebackers: Middle linebacker Travis Carroll, the leader of the group, underwent shoulder surgery in the spring and may not be ready to play when the season starts. If Carroll is shelved, redshirt freshman Marvin Constant may be the man in the middle. Canary Knight is versatile enough to play inside or outside. Miguel Merritt has moved from safety to outside linebacker and may be ready to start. Also competing for time on the outside are Darius Gilbert, Victor Ellis and Adam Cox, who moved from running back. Cox's speed should be a big plus. True freshman Saleem Rasheed could play outside linebacker if he isn't moved to the secondary.

Secondary: Cornerbacks Reggie Myles, who became

a starter midway through last season, and junior college transfer Milo Lewis are physical cover men. Lewis must step up to replace All-SEC cornerback Fernando Bryant. Free safety Tony Dixon and strong safety Marcus Spencer are returning starters. The Tide may use more zone coverage than man-to-man.

Special teams: Ryan Pflugner, who made only 11 of 22 field-goal attempts last season, could lose his job to strong-legged A.J. Diaz or Mark Wisniewski. Patrick Morgan will replace All-SEC punter Daniel Pope. While Morgan has shown a good leg in practice, he



The total package: At 6-5, 290 pounds, Smith strikes an imposing figure, especially for those trying to block him.

has to prove he can handle game pressure. Milons is a dangerous kickoff returner.

Coaching: Neil Callaway retains the title of offensive coordinator, but quarterbacks coach Charlie Stubbs will call plays. Callaway and Stubbs both called plays last season, a confusing situation at times. DuBose tabbed Stubbs because the Tide is running the scheme Stubbs coached at UNLV.

Schedule: Alabama figures to be 3-0 entering a home game against Arkansas. Road games at Florida, Mississippi and Auburn will be tough. A visit by Southern Mississippi, which has a great defense, could be unpleasant.

Outlook: Alabama has promise but is far from being great. A lack of great teams in the West means the Tide's abundance of veterans makes it the favorite.

CRIMSON TIDE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Freddie Milons	5-11	183	So.	Shamari Buchanan	6-2	218	Jr.
T	Chris Samuels	6-6	294	Sr.	*Lanis Baxley	6-6	284	Fr.
G	Griff Redmill	6-6	268	Jr.	Jason McDonald	6-6	310	Sr.
C	Paul Hogan	6-4	275	So.	*Marico Portis	6-2	286	Fr.
G	Will Cuthbert	6-5	302	Jr.	Sam Matthews	6-6	288	So.
T	Kenric Lott	6-5	310	Jr.	*Bart Raulston	6-9	331	Fr.
TE	Terry Jones, Jr.	6-3	255	So.	*Theo Sanders	6-3	240	Fr.
WR	Jason McAddley	6-2	194	So.	*Sam Collins	6-1	178	Fr.
QB	Andrew Zow	6-2	215	So.	*Tyler Watts	6-3	211	Fr.
TB	Shaun Alexander	6-1	205	Sr.	Shaun Bohanon	6-2	215	Jr.
FB	Dustin McClintock	6-3	244	Jr.	Marvin Brown	6-0	245	So.

DEFENSE

E	Kenny Smith	6-5	290	Jr.	Reggie Grimes	6-5	290	Sr.
T	Cornelius Griffin	6-3	290	Sr.	Kelvis White	6-4	291	Jr.
NT	Jamie Carter	6-4	320	Sr.	Todd Whitmore	6-6	285	Jr.
E	Kindal Moorehead	6-3	289	So.	Shawn Draper	6-4	280	Jr.
OLB	Darius Gilbert	6-2	220	So.	Adam Cox	6-1	208	So.
MLB	Travis Carroll	6-4	226	Jr.	Canary Knight	6-2	224	Sr.
OLB	Miguel Merritt	6-0	220	Sr.	Victor Ellis	6-2	225	So.
CB	Milo Lewis	6-0	190	Jr.	Shontua Ray	5-10	202	So.
SS	Marcus Spencer	6-2	190	Jr.	*Phillip Weeks	6-1	170	Fr.
FS	Tony Dixon	6-2	197	So.	Jason Jones	5-11	187	Jr.
CB	Reggie Myles	5-11	181	So.	Kecalf Bailey	5-10	158	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Ryan Pflugner	5-10	175	Sr.	P	Patrick Morgan	6-0	182	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

2 Arkansas

Site: Fayetteville
Coach: Houston Nutt (9-3, 1 year; 45-25 overall, 6 years)
Offensive coordinator: Houston Nutt (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Keith Burns (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro-I
Defensive scheme: 4-4
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 37
Stadium: Razorback (grass, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1989 (Southwest)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 14th
1998 record: 9-3 (lost to Michigan in Citrus Bowl); SEC West: 6-2 (tie 1st)

1998 RESULTS

SW Louisiana, W 38-17
 So. Methodist, W 44-17
 Alabama, W 42-6
 Kentucky, W 27-20
 at Memphis, W 23-9
 at South Carolina, W 41-28
 at Auburn, W 24-21
 Mississippi, W 34-0
 at Tennessee, L 28-24
 at Mississippi St., L 22-21
 Louisiana State, W 41-14
 Michigan, L 45-31

SCHEDULE

S4—at So. Methodist
 S18—NE Louisiana*
 S25—at Alabama
 O2—at Kentucky
 O9—Middle Tennessee St.
 O16—South Carolina*
 O30—Auburn
 N6—at Mississippi
 N13—Tennessee
 N20—Mississippi State*
 N27—at Louisiana State
 *at Little Rock, Ark.

NATIONAL RANK
24

Quarterbacks: Clint Stoerner, a savvy passer entering his third season as a starter, is among the SEC's best. Redshirt freshman Robby Hampton and true freshman Gary Brashears, a Parade All-American who participated in spring practice, are expected to be the backups.

Running backs: Madre Hill is gone, but Arkansas should have a reliable tailback tandem in Chrys Chukwuma and true freshman Cedric Cobbs, who are expected to share the load. Mike Jenkins, a transfer from Wyoming, Eric Branch and Alvin Ray add depth. The Razorbacks are stocked at fullback with returning starter Nathan Norman and Marvin Caston, a former linebacker.

Receivers: Anthony Lucas, who had a school-record 1,004 receiving yards and 10 touchdown receptions last season, leads a deep and talented group. Defenses can't gang up on Lucas or they will be burned by Michael Williams, Emanuel Smith, Michael Snowden and Hubert Loudermilk. Eddie "Boo" Williams, a junior college All-American, also could help. Mammoth Joe Dean Davenport is the SEC's best tight end.

Offensive line: How quickly the line develops—four of the starters are new—is a key to the Hogs' season. Tackle Bobby Williams is the only returning starter. Look for center Kenny Sandlin, guard Shannon Money and tackle Curtis Sanders to assume starting assignments. Jeremiah Washburn and John Geitner, a junior college transfer, will compete for a starting guard spot.

Defensive line: Despite losing three starters who have a chance to play in the NFL (tackle Melvin Bradley, nose tackle Ryan Hale and end C.J. McLain), the Hogs should be strong because the rotation was deep last season. Randy Garner, Carlos Hall, Sacha Lancaster and redshirt freshman Jermaine Brooks will rotate at the end positions, with D.J. Cooper, Curt Davis and Chris Brooks playing inside.

Linebackers: There is an experienced rotation for the two spots. Jamel Harris and J.J. Jones are returning starters, and Quenton Caver may be the most talented of the group. Derrick Johnson, a converted running back, and Delancey Kent also could figure in.

Secondary: There are standouts, but the corner spots are dangerously thin. Free safety Kenoy Kennedy is a fierce hitter who may challenge for All-American honors. Jeromy Flowers is a returning starter at bandit. David Barrett will start at one cornerback spot, while Harold Harris will man the other if Orlando Green, a starter last season, doesn't regain his academic eligibili-

ty. Jeremiah Harper is the leading candidate to start at rover in place of All-SEC pick Zac Painter.

Special teams: Kicker is a question with the loss of Todd Latourette. Coaches have so little faith in Tony Dodson that walk-on Eric Parks kicked last season in a showdown at Mississippi State when Latourette was suspended. If Parks or Dodson don't win the job, a walk-on newcomer could emerge. Punter Chris Akin struggled late last season and could be replaced. Rossi Morreale is a reliable kick returner.



Time share: Chukwuma, who was Arkansas' leading rusher last year despite sharing the role, probably will have to share it again.

Coaching: For the first time in the 1990s, the Razorbacks didn't have any changes on the coaching staff. Defensive coordinator Keith Burns turned down the head coaching position at Louisiana Tech. Running backs coach Danny Nutt, younger brother of Houston Nutt, is recovered from brain surgery and was back on the field for spring practice.

Schedule: The Razorbacks play three of their first four games on the road, including at Alabama. Last year, the Hogs played their first four at home. Trips to Mississippi and Louisiana State could be trouble.

Outlook: Despite lots of skill talent, the Hogs may struggle because of an iffy offensive line. If the line jells, expect a run at the West title and a bowl bid.

RAZORBACKS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Anthony Lucas	6-3	196	Sr.	Rossi Morreale	5-11	168	Sr.
T	Curtis Sanders	6-6	315	Sr.	*Chris Toulson	6-3	276	Fr.
G	Shannon Money	6-3	288	So.	La'Zerius White	6-4	296	So.
C	Kenny Sandlin	6-3	296	So.	*Josh Melton	6-5	295	Fr.
G	Jeremiah Washburn	6-6	287	Sr.	John Geitner	6-4	300	Jr.
T	Bobby Williams	6-4	325	Sr.	Brett Shockley	6-8	322	Jr.
TE	Joe Dean Davenport	6-7	268	Sr.	*Marcellus Poydras	6-5	220	Fr.
WR	Michael Williams	5-10	183	Sr.	Emanuel Smith	6-1	210	Sr.
QB	Clint Stoerner	6-2	220	Sr.	*Robby Hampton	6-2	232	Fr.
TB	Chrys Chukwuma	6-1	225	Sr.	Mike Jenkins	5-7	204	Sr.
FB	Nathan Norman	6-0	234	Sr.	Marvin Caston	6-0	234	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Randy Garner	6-4	246	Jr.	*Raymond House	6-3	238	Fr.
T	D.J. Cooper	6-3	267	Sr.	*Jermaine Brooks	6-3	250	Fr.
NG	Chris Brooks	6-3	279	So.	Curt Davis	6-3	274	So.
E	Carlos Hall	6-4	235	So.	Sacha Lancaster	6-2	265	So.
OLB	Quenton Caver	6-5	221	Jr.	Delancey Kent	6-1	217	Sr.
MLB	Jamel Harris	5-11	228	Sr.	J.J. Jones	6-1	232	Sr.
OLB	Jeromy Flowers	6-0	191	Sr.	Derrick Johnson	6-1	200	So.
CB	David Barrett	5-10	189	Sr.	Chad Royal	5-10	201	So.
SS	Jeremiah Harper	5-10	176	Jr.	Ontraia Moss	5-9	180	Sr.
FS	Kenoy Kennedy	6-1	195	Sr.	Joe Bailey	5-11	193	Sr.
CB	Harold Harris	6-0	184	So.	Darrell Smith	5-11	170	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Tony Dodson	5-9	172	Sr.	P	Chris Akin	6-1	194	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

3 Louisiana State

Site: Baton Rouge
Coach: Gerry DiNardo (30-16-1, 4 years; 49-41-1 overall, 8 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bob McConnell (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Lou Tepper (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 34
Stadium: Tiger (grass, 80,000)
Last league title won: 1988 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 72nd
1998 record: 4-7; SEC West: 2-5 (5th)

1998 RESULTS

Arkansas State, W 42-6
 at Auburn, W 31-19
 Idaho, W 53-20
 Georgia, L 28-27
 at Florida, L 22-10
 Kentucky, L 39-36
 Mississippi State, W 41-6
 at Mississippi, L 37-31 (OT)
 Alabama, L 22-16
 at Notre Dame, L 39-36
 Arkansas, L 41-14

SCHEDULE

S4—San Jose State
 S11—North Texas
 S18—Auburn
 O2—at Georgia
 O9—Florida
 O16—at Kentucky
 O23—at Mississippi State
 O30—Mississippi
 N6—at Alabama
 N13—Houston
 N27—Arkansas

NATIONAL
 RANK
 26

Quarterbacks: Four-year starter Herb Tyler is gone, leaving the starting job open. Tigers fans are anxious to see what sophomore Josh Booty, a former high school All-American, can do after ending his pro baseball career. Booty is talented, but he hasn't played football in five years. Also in the mix are

sophomores Craig Nall and Rohan Davey. Nall is the most experienced—and the least mobile. Davey, a good athlete with a strong arm, may be ready to play. Whoever starts figures to pass more downfield than the Tigers did with the 5-10 Tyler, who had trouble seeing over defenders.

Running backs: With the loss of Kevin Faulk, LSU's all-time leading rusher, senior Rondell Mealey will have his chance to shine. Expect big numbers. Mealey has shown talent but must prove he can be the featured back. Backing up Mealey are LaVar Johnson and redshirt freshman Josh Reed. The Tigers are solid at fullback with returning starter Tommy Banks and Robert Tyler, who is back after sitting out last season because of a suspension.

Receivers: LSU has plenty of talent and experience in Larry Foster and Abram Booty, and sophomore Reggie Robinson may be the most talented of the receivers. Booty missed spring practice after undergoing back surgery but should be OK. Tight end also is strong with Kyle Kipps and Joe Domingeaux. Kipps started last season when Domingeaux redshirted because of a knee injury. LSU may use a lot of two-tight end sets with Kipps and Domingeaux. True freshman Eric Edwards also could figure in the mix.

Offensive line: The line should be fine if John Compton shows he's ready to take over at center in place of departed All-SEC pick Todd McClure. The Tigers have good, experienced players who have started at the other spots, including tackles Louis Williams and Brandon Winey and guards Trey Langley and Al Jackson.

Defensive line: End Jarvis Green, who set an LSU freshmen record with eight sacks last season, is a rising star, but he has had back problems. Tackle Johnny Mitchell is a returning starter. There is a big hole in the middle with the loss of All-SEC nose tackle Anthony McFarland. Kareem Mitchell, redshirt freshman Byron Dawson and Willie Gray and Muskingum Barnes will battle for that spot.

Linebackers: A solid group. Charles Smith, a three-year starter, and Thomas Dunson are expected to man the inside. Theo Williams and Terrence O'Bryant are the outside men. True freshman Bradie James is talented enough to help.

Secondary: Mark Roman, a starting free safety the

last three years, has moved to cornerback, where Ryan Clark and redshirt freshman Damien James, a converted running back, will battle. Fred Booker and Damien Woods will compete for the other cornerback job along with junior college transfer Prentis Jenkins. Clarence LeBlanc will start at strong safety. Look for LSU to be more aggressive and play tighter after allowing an SEC-high 3,034 yards passing in 1998.

Special teams: The punting should be solid with Corey Gibbs, who averaged 43.7 yards last season, and pooch punter Jeremy Witten. Kicker Danny Boyd



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

No problems here: The Tigers are loaded at receiver, where Foster (above) and Abram Booty are the returning starters.

lacks consistency and leg strength, but the Tigers don't appear to have an alternative. Mealey, Roman and James should handle returns.

Coaching: Bob McConnell has been promoted to offensive coordinator from receivers coach to replace Morris Watts, who left for Michigan State. Lou Tepper remains defensive coordinator despite the Tigers' struggles. Look for the defense to be more aggressive.

Schedule: The Tigers have a good chance to start 3-0 with home games against San Jose State, North Texas and Auburn, then have an open date before going to Georgia. They get Florida and Arkansas at home but play at Mississippi State and at Alabama.

Outlook: If a quarterback develops and Mealey can carry the load at tailback, LSU should be bowl bound after last year's disappointing 4-7 record.

TIGERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Abram Booty	6-2	185	Jr.	Reggie Robinson	6-1	197	So.
T	Louis Williams	6-6	300	Jr.	*Sam Forehand	6-6	329	Fr.
G	Al Jackson	6-3	313	Sr.	*Rob Sale	6-2	298	Fr.
C	John Compton	6-3	287	Jr.	Jason Underwood	6-4	275	So.
G	Trey Langley	6-5	300	Jr.	*Brad Smalling	6-7	326	Fr.
T	Brandon Winey	6-7	295	Jr.	Jesse Harmon	6-5	314	Jr.
TE	Kyle Kipps	6-5	261	So.	Joe Domingeaux	6-6	258	So.
WR	Larry Foster	5-10	188	Sr.	Ed Dangerfield	6-4	214	So.
QB	Craig Nall	6-3	227	So.	Rohan Davey	6-3	230	So.
TB	Rondell Mealey	6-0	205	Sr.	*Josh Reed	5-11	210	Fr.
FB	Tommy Banks	6-0	255	Jr.	Robert Tyler	6-0	255	Jr.

DEFENSE

T	Johnny Mitchell	6-5	315	Sr.	Charles Thomas	6-4	194	So.
NT	Muskingum Barnes	6-2	267	So.	*Willie Gray	6-1	274	Fr.
E	Jarvis Green	6-3	261	So.	Kareem Mitchell	6-4	267	Jr.
OLB	Theo Williams	6-3	245	Sr.	*Jeremy Lawrence	6-2	230	Fr.
ILB	Charles Smith	6-2	235	Sr.	Bubba Alexander	6-2	220	Jr.
ILB	Thomas Dunson	6-3	230	So.	Wardell Sykes	6-1	225	Jr.
OLB	Terrence O'Bryant	6-4	214	So.	Jamal Hill	6-2	219	Jr.
CB	Mark Roman	6-0	187	Sr.	Robert Davis	5-9	175	So.
SS	Clarence LeBlanc	6-3	200	Sr.	Shane O'Toole	5-11	172	So.
FS	Ryan Clark	6-0	183	So.	*Damien James	5-11	188	Fr.
CB	Damien Woods	5-10	185	Sr.	Fred Booker	5-9	183	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Danny Boyd	6-0	213	Sr.	P	Corey Gibbs	6-0	191	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

4 Mississippi

Site: Oxford
Coach: David Cutcliffe (1-0, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: David Cutcliffe (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Art Kaufman (5th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 10
Lettermen returning: 51
Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway (grass, 50,577)
Last league title won: 1963
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 33rd
1998 record: 7-5 (beat Texas Tech in Independence Bowl); SEC West: 3-5 (4th)

1998 RESULTS

Memphis, W 30-10
 Auburn, L 17-0
 at Vanderbilt, W, 30-6
 at SMU, W 48-41 (OT)
 South Carolina, W 30-28
 at Alabama, L 20-17 (OT)
 Arkansas State, W 30-17
 Louisiana St. W 37-31 (OT)
 at Arkansas, L 34-0
 at Georgia, L 24-17
 Mississippi State, L 28-6
 Texas Tech, W 35-18

SCHEDULE

S4—at Memphis
 S11—Arkansas State
 S18—Vanderbilt
 S25—at Auburn
 O2—at South Carolina
 O9—Tulane
 O16—Alabama
 O30—at Louisiana State
 N6—Arkansas
 N20—Georgia
 N25—at Mississippi State

NATIONAL RANK
29

Quarterbacks: New coach David Cutcliffe says Romaro Miller throws the ball as well as any player he has worked with. That's high praise, considering Cutcliffe coached Peyton Manning at Tennessee. To go with his strong arm, Miller also has mobility and experience. Heralded true freshman Eli

Manning, Peyton's younger brother, is the quarterback of the future. Cutcliffe would prefer to redshirt Manning. That may depend on how well sophomore David Morris, who started against Mississippi State last season when Miller was out because of a shoulder injury, develops.

Running backs: The Rebels will play more two-back sets. Deuce McAllister, who rushed for 1,055 yards last season, is the returning starter at tailback, and Joe Gunn will help carry the load. They will be escorted by fullback Charles Stackhouse.

Receivers: Grant Heard sat out spring practice recovering from knee surgery but should be ready in the fall. Heard will be joined by Cory Peterson, a returning starter. At tight end, junior college transfer Kevin McKenzie is the top candidate to replace stand-out Rufus French, who left a year early. McKenzie is a big target and should be a better blocker than French. Maurice Flourny, who stood out on special teams last season, will provide speed at slotback.

Offensive line: Guard Terrence Metcalf, the team's best blocker, is expected to be healthy after redshirting last season because of a broken ankle. Other returning starters are tackles Todd Wade and Tutan Reyes and guard Keydrick Vincent. Charlie Perkins and redshirt freshman Ben Claxton will compete for the center spot vacated by Matt Luke. This is a good starting group, but depth could be a problem.

Defensive line: Ends Derrick Burgess, Shane Elam and Antionne Scott are athletic players who excel at pressuring the passer. They will be joined by an experienced four-man rotation inside: Kendrick Clancy, Tyler Williams, Anthony Sims and Comone Fisher. This is the most defensive line experience and depth the Rebels have had in years, a sign that the program is recovering from NCAA sanctions that limited scholarships.

Linebackers: Middle linebacker Armegis Spearman is a returning starter who led the team with 84 tackles last season. Rising star Eddie Strong will start on the weakside. Ronnie Heard, a converted safety, will start on the strongside. Chad Cook, a backup in the middle, could push for a starting job on the outside. Coaches hope highly touted true freshman Jamil Northcutt can make an impact as quickly as Strong did last year.

Secondary: Ken Lucas, one of the team's fastest

players, has moved to cornerback from receiver. He will challenge for a starting job and also may see spot duty at receiver. Strong safety Kenny Woods is a tremendous hitter but sometimes isn't in position to make plays. Timothy Strickland will start at cornerback, and Anthony Magee and Syniker Taylor will compete at free safety. Taylor became a starter last season, then missed the last three games after suffering a broken ankle. A good athlete with range, he will play a lot if his ankle is strong. Redshirt freshman cornerback Desmon Johnson has the speed to get playing



On the run: McAllister figures to carry a heavy load after last year becoming the first Rebel to run for 1,000 yards in a season since 1950.

time.

Special teams: Punter Reagan King averaged just 38.3 yards last season. Les Binkley, a junior college All-American, likely will be the team's kicker. Lucas and Peterson are good returners.

Schedule: The Rebels have a shot to start 3-0, opening with Memphis, Arkansas State and Vanderbilt. Every SEC road game (Auburn, South Carolina, Louisiana State, Mississippi State) is winnable.

Coaching: Cutcliffe, previously the offensive coordinator at Tennessee, coached the Rebels to victory in the Independence Bowl. He'll call the plays. Art Kaufman was retained as defensive coordinator.

Outlook: The Rebels should secure a third consecutive bowl trip. They could contend for the division title with good health and the right breaks.

REBELS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Grant Heard	6-3	190	Sr.	Jamie Armstrong	6-0	180	So.
T	Tutan Reyes	6-4	285	Sr.	Matt Koon	6-5	245	So.
G	Terrence Metcalf	6-3	291	So.	Shane Grice	6-1	300	Jr.
C	*Ben Claxton	6-2	277	Fr.	Charlie Perkins	6-2	290	Jr.
G	Keydrick Vincent	6-5	345	Jr.	*Augustus Carwell	6-3	336	Fr.
T	Todd Wade	6-7	320	Sr.	John Keith	6-2	280	So.
TE	Adam Bettis	6-2	230	Sr.	*Doug Zeigler	6-3	235	Fr.
WR	Cory Peterson	6-3	195	Sr.	Sheldon Morris	5-10	165	Sr.
QB	Romaro Miller	6-1	190	Jr.	David Morris	6-1	181	So.
TB	Deuce McAllister	6-2	215	Jr.	Joe Gunn	5-10	196	So.
FB	Charles Stackhouse	6-2	212	So.	*Toward Sanford	5-10	213	Fr.

DEFENSE

E	Derrick Burgess	6-2	260	Jr.	John Romm	6-2	241	Jr.
T	Kendrick Clancy	6-2	265	Sr.	Anthony Sims	6-2	250	So.
T	Comone Fisher	6-2	280	Sr.	Tyler Williams	6-2	270	Sr.
E	Antionne Scott	6-2	264	Jr.	Shane Elam	6-1	235	Jr.
OLB	Ronnie Heard	6-3	205	Sr.	Kevin Thomas	5-9	190	So.
MLB	Armegis Spearman	6-1	245	Sr.	Chad Cook	6-0	225	Jr.
OLB	Eddie Strong	6-2	230	So.	Shawn Johnson	6-1	220	Jr.
CB	Ken Lucas	6-1	193	Jr.	*Desmon Johnson	5-10	160	Fr.
SS	Kenny Woods	6-2	205	Sr.	*Darius Tate	6-0	165	Fr.
FS	Anthony Magee	6-0	175	Jr.	Syniker Taylor	6-0	195	So.
CB	Timothy Strickland	5-10	185	Sr.	Justin Coleman	5-10	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Les Binkley	5-9	170	Jr.	P	Reagan King	6-3	223	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

5 Mississippi State

Site: Starkville
Coach: Jackie Sherrill (49-42-2, 8 years; 154-87-4 overall, 21 years)
Offensive coordinator: Sparky Woods (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Joe Lee Dunn (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 5-2
Starters lost: 15
Lettermen lost: 23
Lettermen returning: 42
Stadium: Scott Field (grass, 40,656)
Last league title won: 1941
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 30th
1998 record: 8-5 (lost to Texas in Cotton Bowl); SEC West: 6-3 (tie 1st, lost to Tennessee in SEC championship game)

1998 RESULTS
 Vanderbilt, W 42-0
 at Memphis, W 14-6
 at Oklahoma St., L 42-23
 at South Carolina, W 38-0
 Auburn, W 38-21
 East Tennessee St., W 53-6
 at Louisiana State, L 41-6
 at Kentucky, L 37-35
 Alabama, W 26-14
 Arkansas, W 22-21
 at Mississippi, W 28-6
 Tennessee, L 24-14
 Texas, L 38-11

SCHEDULE
 S4—Middle Tennessee St.
 S11—Memphis
 S18—Oklahoma State
 S25—South Carolina
 O2—at Vanderbilt
 O9—at Auburn
 O23—Louisiana State
 N4—Kentucky
 N13—at Alabama
 N20—at Arkansas*
 N25—Mississippi
 *at Little Rock, Ark.

NATIONAL RANK
37

Quarterbacks: Wayne Madkin is mobile, has a strong arm and figures to throw more passes to the backs and tight ends this season in the multiple I-formation offense installed by new coordinator Sparky Woods. Madkin has added 10 pounds, which should enable him to remain strong as the season progresses.

He will be responsible for more check-offs at the line, which previously had been called by the center. Matt Wyatt is the clear No. 2 man, ahead of Rob Morgan.

Running backs: James Johnson, the SEC's leading rusher last year, will be replaced by committee. At 5-8 and 197 pounds, Chris Rainey isn't big enough to handle the pounding alone. Diconzo Miller, who had off-season shoulder surgery, and redshirt freshman Justin Griffith figure in the picture, as well as true freshman Dontae Walker, a high school superstar. Fullback Kenny Williamson will provide the blocking.

Receivers: With the loss of starters Kevin Prentiss and Kevin Cooper, Kelvin Love must become a go-to receiver. He has big-play potential but needs to show he can handle a bigger load. Matt Butler has been a solid target and must show he's ready to play a bigger role. Speedy Harold Lindsey will push for more playing time. Tight end Terrence McCaskey should get more catches in the new offense.

Offensive line: Tackle Floyd "Pork Chop" Womack is the only returning starter. Veteran Paul Mooney will replace All-SEC pick Eric Allen at center. Wes Shivers will start at tackle, and Michael Fair and Kenric Fairchild will start at the guards. Shivers split time with starter Anthony Kapp last season, so he should feel comfortable moving into a key role. The top backups will be redshirt freshmen Carl Hutchins and Kyle Wallace, who are big but lack experience.

Defensive line: Tackles Kevin Sluder and John Hilliard are returning starters who can clog the middle. End Cornell Menafee, also a returning starter, needs to provide the sacks the Bulldogs got from Edward Smith last season. Conner Stephens will start in place of Smith. Alvin McKinley has moved from tackle to nose-tackle, where he looks more comfortable. Junior college transfers Willie Blade, Dorsett Davis and Toby Golliday are big bodies who will bolster the unit.

Linebackers: Barrin Simpson, who battled injuries last season, is one of the SEC's top linebackers when healthy. Jamaal Dinkins established himself as the other starter with a good spring. Edward Yeates and Paul Hunter also figure in the rotation.

Secondary: Free safety Kenzaki Jones was kicked out of school because of a fraternity hazing incident, but plenty of talent and experience remain. Jones is

appealing and may be back. In the meantime, Pig Prather has taken over at free safety after moving from tailback. He has been a good special-teams player and may be ready to shine. Cornerbacks Robert Bean and Kendall Roberson are returning starters, as is strong safety Tim Nelson.

Special teams: Jeff Walker may be the SEC's best punter. He has averaged 43.9 yards the last two seasons. Scott Westerfield must replace Brian Hazelwood, a clutch kicker with a strong leg. Westerfield, who red-shirted last year, has yet to kick in pressure situations.



No sweat: Bean, a transfer last season, found the SEC to his liking, tying for the league lead in interceptions with five and scoring two TDs.

Coaching: Jackie Sherrill felt the offense was too inconsistent last season, so he fired coordinator Lynn Amedee and hired Woods from Virginia. Woods, a former South Carolina coach, inherits a unit that includes just two returning starters.

Schedule: Built to succeed. The Bulldogs have seven home games, including the first four (Middle Tennessee State, Memphis, Oklahoma State and South Carolina). There is no Tennessee, Florida or Georgia. Louisiana State comes to Starkville.

Outlook: With so many starters to replace on offense, don't expect Mississippi State to repeat as SEC West champion. There is a lot of experience on defense, and Joe Lee Dunn is one of the top coordinators in the country. With trips to Arkansas and Alabama the lone daunting games, expect a winning record and a bowl.

BULLDOGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Matt Butler	6-2	196	Sr.	Lorenzo Armstead	5-8	170	Sr.
T	Floyd Womack	6-3	327	Jr.	Tron Thomas	6-3	281	Jr.
G	Michael Fair	6-3	291	Jr.	Matt McRae	6-3	321	Jr.
C	Paul Mooney	6-8	325	Sr.	Kevin Sijansky	6-3	291	So.
G	Kenric Fairchild	6-4	290	So.	*Carl Hutchins	6-5	283	Fr.
T	Wes Shivers	6-7	341	Sr.	*Kyle Wallace	6-5	324	Fr.
TE	Terrence McCaskey	6-6	262	Sr.	*C.J. Sirmones	6-3	229	Fr.
WR	Kevin Love	6-3	190	So.	Harold Lindsey	6-1	193	So.
QB	Wayne Madkin	6-4	205	So.	Matt Wyatt	6-5	231	Sr.
TB	Chris Rainey	5-8	197	Sr.	*Justin Griffith	5-11	220	Fr.
FB	Kenny Williamson	6-2	238	Jr.	Rod Gibson	5-10	220	Fr.

DEFENSE

E	Conner Stephens	6-4	241	So.	Nathan Jackson	6-4	215	Fr.
T	John Hilliard	6-3	270	Sr.	Dorsett Davis	6-6	303	So.
NG	Alvin McKinley	6-4	285	Sr.	Mario Haggan	6-4	290	Sr.
T	Kevin Sluder	6-4	270	Sr.	Ellis Wyms	6-3	273	Jr.
E	Cornell Menafee	6-2	232	Sr.	Bobby Pressley	6-3	210	Sr.
LB	Jamaal Dinkins	6-0	213	Jr.	Paul Hunter	6-2	228	Sr.
LB	Barrin Simpson	5-11	221	Sr.	Barris Grant	6-1	240	Jr.
CB	Robert Bean	6-0	170	Sr.	Shawn Byrdson	5-9	165	So.
SS	Tim Nelson	5-9	176	Sr.	Ashley Cooper	6-0	207	Sr.
FS	Pig Prather	6-0	185	So.	Kenzaki Jones	6-1	200	Sr.
CB	Kendall Roberson	6-0	198	Sr.	Emmitt Smith	6-1	190	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Scott Westerfield	5-10	182	Jr.	P	Jeff Walker	5-11	211	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

6 Auburn

Site: Auburn, Ala.
Coach: Tommy Tuberville
 (first year; 25-20 overall, 4 years)

Offensive coordinator:
 Noel Mazzone (1st season)

Defensive coordinator:

John Lovett (1st season)

Offensive scheme: Pro

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 6

Lettermen lost: 11

Lettermen returning: 48

Stadium: Jordan-Hare

(grass, 85,214)

Last league title won:

1989 (tie)

Last bowl appearance:

1997

1998 TSN rank: 66th

1998 record: 3-8; SEC

West: 1-7 (6th)

1998 RESULTS

Virginia, L 19-0

at Mississippi, W 17-0

Louisiana State, L 31-19

Tennessee, L 17-9

at Mississippi St., L 38-21

at Florida, L 24-3

Louisiana Tech, W 32-17

Arkansas, L 24-21

Central Florida, W 10-6

Georgia, L 28-17

Alabama, L 31-17

SCHEDULE

S4—Appalachian State

S11—Idaho

S18—at Louisiana State

S25—Mississippi

O2—at Tennessee

O9—Mississippi State

O16—Florida

O30—at Arkansas

N6—Central Florida

N13—at Georgia

N20—Alabama

NATIONAL
RANK
60

Quarterbacks: Gabe Gross, who took part in spring practices while also playing for the Auburn baseball team, isn't assured of retaining his starting position. Ben Leard, who began last season as the starter before being replaced by the more athletic Gross, should fit better into Auburn's new scheme. The

offense will feature short drops and quick-hitting passes, which should help Leard's effectiveness. True freshman Allen Tillman also could be a factor.

Running backs: The Tigers plan to use a lot of one-back sets. When they do, it may be fullback Heath Evans in the backfield. Evans, a strong runner and a good receiver, picked up the new offense quickly. Tailback Demontray Carter, the team's leading rusher last season, looks good at times but isn't physical enough. Michael Burks has size but lacks speed. True freshman Michael Owens may figure into the mix.

Receivers: This is the weakest position on the team, with the loss of Karsten Bailey, Auburn's all-time leading receiver, and the suspension of Clifton Robinson last spring after his arrest on rape charges. The Tigers will rely heavily on freshmen Ronney Daniels and Deandre Green. Daniels signed with Auburn in 1995 but spent the last four years playing pro baseball. Markeith Cooper will get a shot to play slotback. None of the tight ends showed much in the spring.

Offensive line: A rash of injuries last season forced a lot of guys to play a lot of positions, which means there's depth and experience. Center Cole Cubelic, tackles Jeno James and Colin Sears, and guards Mike Pucillo and Kendall Simmons all have starting experience, as do center Ben Nowland and tackle Tim Castro. T.J. Meers, a starting tackle two years ago who left the team last season, has returned, although a knee injury could keep him from playing this season.

Defensive line: The Tigers will be tough up front, especially if Jimmy Brumbaugh makes a full recovery from knee injuries that forced him to redshirt last season. Brumbaugh and Jeff Dunlap are the projected starters at tackle. Leonardo Carson is one of the nation's best ends. Quinton Reese and Marcus Washington, who moved from linebacker, will be in the rotation at end. True freshman tackle DeMarco McNeil is being counted on to contribute.

Linebackers: Middle linebacker James Callier was limited in spring practice as he recovered from a knee injury. For now, Shawn Shw and Tavarreus Pounds are manning the post. Kenny Kelly and Haven Fields figure to start on the outside.

Secondary: The Tigers are loaded with experience with Rob Pate at strong safety and Larry Casher and Antwoine Nolan at cornerback. Freshman Stanford

Simmons, who signed with Auburn in 1997 and has gained his academic eligibility, may end up claiming the starting free safety spot. He could become a star. Cornerback Rodney Crayton appears recovered from a series of injuries and should afford depth.

Special teams: Rob Bironas may be the SEC's best kicker; he made 12 of 16 field-goal attempts last season. Redshirt freshman Damon Duval is the leading candidate to replace Jeremy Zills as the punter. Cooper is an experienced and speedy kick returner.

Coaching: Tommy Tuberville, who led Mississippi to



New job, same role: Moving from linebacker to end won't change Washington's primary mission: Make life miserable for the quarterback.

bowl games the last two seasons, was hired to return Auburn to glory after the messy departure of Terry Bowden. Some players are upset that Bill Oliver didn't get the job after replacing Bowden on an interim basis last season.

Schedule: Auburn bought out of the Florida State game and replaced it with I-AA Appalachian State. That's good, because for the second straight year the Tigers have to play SEC East beasts Tennessee, Florida and Georgia.

Outlook: There's a lot of experience on the squad, but Auburn still figures to struggle. Give Tuberville a year or two, but he better not take too long—Bowden was forced out a season after Auburn won the SEC West. It's vital that the quarterback and tailback spots develop consistency.

TIGERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	*Ronney Daniels	6-1	211	Fr.	Ryan Hooker	6-0	193	Jr.
T	Jeno James	6-4	303	Sr.	Jeremy Tountgett	6-6	300	So.
G	Kendall Simmons	6-3	318	Jr.	William Clifton	6-2	279	Jr.
C	Cole Cubelic	6-3	295	Jr.	*Ben Nowland	6-2	285	Fr.
G	Mike Pucillo	6-4	315	So.	Marcus Autry	6-4	333	Jr.
T	Colin Sears	6-3	286	Jr.	Tim Castro	6-4	310	Jr.
TE	*Lorenzo Diamond	6-3	230	Fr.	Reid Tankersley	6-3	252	So.
WR	Reggie Worthy	6-0	191	Jr.	*Tim Carter	6-0	189	Fr.
QB	Gabe Gross	6-3	197	So.	Ben Leard	6-4	225	Jr.
TB	Demontray Carter	5-10	187	Jr.	Michael Burks	5-11	222	So.
FB	Heath Evans	6-0	230	So.	Tellie Embery	6-0	223	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Marcus Washington	6-4	240	Sr.	*Robert Malone	6-4	262	Fr.
T	Jimmy Brumbaugh	6-1	294	Sr.	Josh Weldon	6-4	282	So.
T	Jeff Dunlap	6-5	275	Jr.	Jeremy Banks	6-3	276	Jr.
E	Leonardo Carson	6-3	282	Sr.	Quinton Reese	6-4	260	Sr.
OLB	Haven Fields	6-0	223	So.	Whit Smith	6-3	230	So.
MLB	Shawn Shaw	6-0	225	So.	Tavarreus Pounds	6-0	240	So.
OLB	Kenny Kelly	6-0	207	Sr.	*Damon Postell	6-0	200	Fr.
CB	Rodney Crayton	5-8	173	Jr.	Larry Casher	5-11	168	Jr.
SS	Rob Pate	6-3	201	Jr.	Courtney Rose	5-8	193	Jr.
FS	Adlai Trone	5-9	174	Sr.	*Stanford Simmons	6-2	191	Fr.
CB	Antwoine Nolan	5-9	188	Sr.	*Brandon Reed	5-10	169	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Rob Bironas	6-0	197	Jr.	P	*Damon Duval	6-0	167	Fr.
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*Returners in bold

Hasn't

SOUTHEASTERN 1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING (RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD)

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Kevin Faulk, Louisiana State	11	229	1,279	5.6	12	116.3
2. James Johnson, Mississippi State	12	236	1,383	5.9	12	115.3
3. Shaun Alexander, Alabama, Sr.	11	258	1,178	4.6	13	107.1
4. Deuce McAllister, Mississippi, Jr.	11	212	1,082	5.1	7	98.4
5. Chrys Chukwuma, Arkansas, Sr.	10	149	870	5.8	8	87.0
6. Travis Henry, Tennessee, Jr.	12	176	970	5.5	7	80.8
7. Troy Hambrick, South Carolina, Sr.	10	144	701	4.9	4	70.1
8. Rodney Williams, Vanderbilt, So.	9	126	608	4.8	3	67.6
9. Derek Homer, Kentucky, Jr.	11	137	716	5.2	7	65.1
10. Olandis Gary, Georgia	11	143	698	4.9	10	63.5

PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Tim Couch, Kentucky	11	553	400	.723	15	4,275	7.7	36	153.3
2. Herb Tyler, Louisiana State	10	250	153	.612	7	2,018	8.1	18	147.2
3. Clint Stoerner, Arkansas, Sr.	11	312	167	.535	8	2,629	8.4	26	146.7
4. Doug Johnson, Florida, Sr.	10	274	154	.562	8	2,346	8.6	19	145.2
5. Tee Martin, Tennessee, Sr.	12	267	153	.573	6	2,164	8.1	19	144.4
6. Quincy Carter, Georgia, So.	11	290	176	.607	9	2,484	8.6	12	140.1
7. Andrew Zow, Alabama, So.	11	256	143	.559	7	1,969	7.7	11	129.2
8. Wayne Madkin, Miss. St., So.	12	199	96	.482	9	1,532	7.7	11	122.1
9. Romaro Miller, Mississippi, Jr.	10	326	184	.564	11	2,273	7.0	11	119.4
10. Anthony Wright, South Carolina	11	273	145	.531	10	1,901	7.0	10	116.4

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPC
1. Craig Yeast, Kentucky	11	85	1,311	14	7.7	15.4
2. Anthony White, Kentucky, Sr.	11	78	582	1	7.1	7.5
3. Travis McGriff, Florida	11	70	1,357	10	6.4	19.4
4. Larry Foster, Louisiana State, Sr.	11	56	722	4	5.1	12.9
5. Peerless Price, Tennessee	12	61	920	10	5.1	15.1
6. Abram Booty, Louisiana State, Jr.	11	54	779	5	4.9	14.4
7. Zola Davis, South Carolina	11	48	733	5	4.4	15.3
7. Tony Small, Georgia	11	48	675	3	4.4	14.1
7. Quincy Jackson, Alabama	11	48	621	4	4.4	12.9
10. Anthony Lucas, Arkansas, Sr.	10	43	1,004	10	4.3	23.4

1998 TEAM STATS OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Tennessee (17)	211.3	1. Kentucky (2)	412.2	1. Kentucky (3)	534.18
2. Mississippi (38)	176.2	2. Florida (5)	346.1	2. Florida (14)	461.91
3. Mississippi St. (42)	171.9	3. Georgia (26)	249.5	3. Georgia (30)	401.73
4. Louisiana State (45)	168.5	4. Arkansas (32)	242.5	4. Tennessee (32)	398.83
5. Georgia (55)	152.2	5. South Carolina (37)	231.2	5. Arkansas (35)	393.91
6. Arkansas (56)	151.4	6. Alabama (42)	221.4	6. Mississippi (37)	392.73
7. South Carolina (86)	124.0	7. Mississippi (46)	216.5	7. Louisiana State (41)	384.64
8. Kentucky (89)	122.0	8. Louisiana State (47)	216.2	8. South Carolina (65)	355.18
9. Vanderbilt (93)	116.7	9. Tennessee (73)	187.5	9. Alabama (71)	337.0
10. Florida (95)	115.8	10. Auburn (79)	176.4	10. Mississippi St. (83)	322.5
11. Alabama (97)	115.6	11. Vanderbilt (89)	150.9	11. Auburn (107)	270.18
12. Auburn (103)	93.8	12. Mississippi St. (90)	150.6	12. Vanderbilt (108)	267.64

DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASS EFFICIENCY		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	Points	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Florida (4)	90.7	1. Florida (7)	100.5	1. Florida (9)	286.6
2. Tennessee (6)	93.9	2. Tennessee (17)	106.2	2. Tennessee (17)	303.0
3. Arkansas (7)	95.5	3. Mississippi St. (24)	108.3	3. Arkansas (18)	306.4
4. Auburn (19)	119.2	4. Arkansas (25)	108.7	4. Auburn (19)	306.7
5. Mississippi (29)	130.0	5. Georgia (41)	114.2	5. Mississippi St. (20)	312.9
6. Louisiana State (32)	132.9	6. Auburn (43)	114.9	6. Mississippi (30)	331.4
7. Georgia (37)	137.1	7. Mississippi (52)	118.9	7. Georgia (48)	352.8
8. Mississippi St. (48)	147.4	8. Alabama (54)	120.0	8. Alabama (59)	368.0
9. Alabama (50)	147.7	9. Kentucky (91)	137.6	9. Kentucky (69)	386.1
10. Kentucky (54)	149.2	10. Vanderbilt (99)	143.6	10. South Carolina (81)	396.8
11. Vanderbilt (82)	175.3	11. South Carolina (101)	144.6	11. Louisiana State (91)	408.7
12. South Carolina (83)	178.9	12. Louisiana State (109)	155.1	12. Vanderbilt (100)	441.2

RECRUITING

1. ALABAMA: Mike DuBose's staff followed its 1997 haul with another cache of gems. David Paine and Kenny King will help the defensive line. Saleem Rasheed is a monster linebacker. The secondary added an impact player in junior college transfer Milo Lewis. Hiring recruiting coordinator Ronnie Cottrell from Florida State continues to pay dividends, as the Tide make inroads into the talent in the Sunshine State.

2. GEORGIA: The Bulldogs filled a need by rounding up the best group of receivers in the nation. Reggie Brown and Durrell Robinson picked Georgia over Tennessee. Damien Gary and Michael Johnson make it a foursome. Bruce Thornton could wind up at several positions. Offensive lineman Kevin Breedlove is another prize Georgia snatched out of South Carolina.

3. LOUISIANA STATE: The Tigers got almost everyone they wanted in Louisiana, home state of 20 of their 27 signees. Linebackers Bradie James and Treverance Faulk might help early. Tight end Eric Edwards is a specimen. Walter Young is a blue-chip defensive lineman. The biggest impact may come from quarterback Josh Booty, a 1993 prep All-American who played minor league baseball the past five years.

4. FLORIDA: The Gators loaded up on defensive players. Lito Sheppard was rated in some circles as the top cornerback in the nation. The linebackers—Mike Nattiel, Tron LaFavor, Byron Hardmon, Matt Farrior and Roderick Royal—are as good a group as any school signed. Quarterback Rex Grossman arrived in time for spring ball.

5. TENNESSEE: Even though quarterback Chris Simms reneged and went to Texas, Tennessee is high on A.J. Suggs, who enrolled in time for spring practice. Center Greg Barnum heads a group of four Texans that includes star defensive back Sterling Kazee and defensive lineman Kevin Young. South Carolina defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth was wanted by everyone. A weak in-state crop hurt the Vols.

6. MISSISSIPPI STATE: The Bulldogs signed 10 junior college transfers, headed by defensive lineman Dorsett Davis. Others who could work into the rotation are Toby Golliday, Willie Blade, Barris Grant and Fred Smoot. Dontae Walker was among the nation's top-rated running backs. Terrell Grindle could help quickly at receiver.

7. ARKANSAS: Running back Cedric Cobbs was one of the biggest catches in the SEC. Gary Brashears could be the heir apparent to Clint Stoerner at quarterback. The Hogs went heavy on offensive linemen and added some promising receivers, including 6-4 junior college transfer Eddie "Boo" Williams. Eddie Jackson is a quality defensive back.

8. AUBURN: Skill positions figure prominently in a 28-man class. Tight end Robert Johnson is a super prospect. Quarterbacks Phillip Gargis and Allen Tillman bring more modest credentials. Michael Owens could help restore Auburn's running game. Keep an eye on defensive back Roshard Gilyard.

9. SOUTH CAROLINA: Andrew Pinnock is one of the best fullback prospects in the nation. Running back Derek Watson was South Carolina's Mr. Football, but most of the state's bumper crop was harvested by Tennessee and Georgia. Cleveland Pinkney, a junior college All-American defensive lineman, will be an instant starter. Tim Bell, another junior college transfer, could start on the offensive line.

10. KENTUCKY: Quarterback Jared Lorenzen, Kentucky's Mr. Football, has the size and arm to play in the SEC. He brings along prep teammate Derek Smith, a fine tight end. Speedy Brad Pyatt and Derek Abney should find a home soon in Hal Mumme's receiving corps.

11. MISSISSIPPI: Tommy Tuberville's move to Auburn hurt. New coach David Cutcliffe capitalized on his Tennessee ties with the Manning family to lure Peyton's brother Eli, also a quarterback. Linebacker Jamil Northcutt is a keeper.

12. VANDERBILT: Benji Walker will compete at quarterback. Linebacker Mike Adam was the most recruited signee, also being wooed by Notre Dame and Nebraska. Ryan Cuffee is a burner.

SCOUTING Southeastern

To find the man to clean up an embarrassing mess, Auburn didn't have far to go. The Tigers lured Tommy Tuberville from SEC West rival Mississippi, where he had made impressive strides on cleaning up another mess. Auburn's mess is different. The Tigers don't have NCAA sanctions or scholarship reductions. They do have a lot of hurt feelings from the midseason dumping of Terry Bowden and the infighting involved in picking his successor. Auburn still will take some lumps in the national media when opening day rolls around. The Tigers bought their way out of a season-opening game with Papa Bowden's Florida State juggernaut, so the Tuberville Era will be launched against I-AA Appalachian State.

Ascending: A year ago, this space listed Alabama's Mike DuBose as the coach on the hot seat after a 4-7 debut. The Crimson Tide rebounded and went 7-5. A couple of impressive recruiting classes are paying dividends, as talent and depth improve. The Tide will compete for the title in a wide-open Western Division.

Descending: That Hall of Fame Bowl trip was fun for a Kentucky program

Knoxville, but the Vols have not won in Gainesville since 1971. The Gators haven't been to the SEC Championship game the past two seasons. This is their ticket back.

Bowl bound: Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana State and Mississippi. Mississippi State is a possibility.

Biggest shoes to fill: What Couch meant to Kentucky can't be overestimated. He could have stayed another year, but even diehard Wildcats fans shouldn't blame Couch for leaving early for the NFL. Now what? For now, Dusty Bonner is the man. But don't be surprised to see Jared Lorenzen, Kentucky high schools' Mr. Football last season, starting by October.

Most overrated: Stoerner is a good quarterback, but much of his success last season was attributed to playing behind a great line and being surrounded by terrific skill talent. Surrounded by less talent in 1997, Stoerner struggled. The skill talent from 1998 remains, but the line has lost four starters. Can Stoerner, who receives excellent coaching from former NFL quarterback Joe Ferguson, make the plays under pressure?

Most underrated: First it was Al Wilson; now it's Raynoch Thompson who is the subject of well-deserved acclaim as an outstanding linebacker at Tennessee. The guy you don't hear as much about is Eric Westmoreland. The junior overcame a series of injuries and became a key contributor in the Vols' national title run. The outside linebacker hits hard, covers well and always is in position to make a play.

Best coach: Phillip Fulmer has an amazing .859 winning percentage (67-11), and now he has a national championship ring to go with two SEC rings. Long regarded as one of the best recruiters among head coaches, Fulmer has emerged from Steve Spurrier's shadow. He did a masterful job of keeping the Vols focused during the 13-0 national title run and helped his team keep finding a way to win.

Best staff: Tennessee. With Bob Stoops gone from Florida, the Vols' John Chavis will get more attention as a rock-solid defensive coordinator. Dan Brooks and Mark Bradley have proved to be excellent recruiters. Randy Sanders made a promising debut as offensive coordinator in the Fiesta Bowl, replacing the departed David Cutcliffe. Mike Barry was a terrific addition last year, overseeing the offensive line, and Fulmer has added two respected veterans in Woody McCorvey (running backs) and Larry Slade (defensive backs).

Coach on the hot seat: Louisiana State's 4-7 belly-flop last year didn't do Gerry



Under pressure: Arkansas' Stoerner is reputed to be among the SEC's best quarterbacks—but can he make plays behind a rebuilt line?

DiNardo any favors, considering LSU was a preseason favorite to win the SEC West. DiNardo stuck with unpopular defensive coordinator Lou Tepper, which could prove to be his undoing.

Odds and ends: South Carolina luring Lou Holtz out of retirement has to rate as the surprise hire of the year. The 62-year-old Holtz seemed content in broadcasting after stepping down at Notre Dame two years ago. He faces a tough haul whipping a moribund program into shape. Holtz's spring practices were grueling, and he was disappointed at the condition of the players. ... Tuberville's move to Auburn gave Cutcliffe a long-awaited head-coaching job; he took over at Mississippi. Cutcliffe made his reputation developing quarterbacks while serving as the offensive coordinator at Tennessee. Cutcliffe, who got his feet wet at Ole Miss with an Independence Bowl victory, may be wound too tight for his new job; he already has been hospitalized twice due to pancreatitis. ... Georgia coach Jim Donnan seems obsessed with undermining Tennessee. A year ago he lured highly regarded recruiter Rodney Garner from the Volunteers. This year Donnan hired Tennessee secondary coach Kevin Ramsey, who like Garner had had success luring Georgia prospects north to Knoxville. Ramsey is the Dawgs' defensive coordinator, succeeding Joe Kines. ... Alabama has pulled its two biggest games out of Birmingham and moved them on campus to Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Tennessee will play in Tuscaloosa on October 23 for the first time since 1930. Next year, Auburn goes to Tuscaloosa for the first time since 1901. The Crimson Tide will maintain a minimal presence in Birmingham for a few more years; the school considers playing on campus a significant advantage.

—Mike Strange

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBs	DBs		
ALABAMA	3	1	6	6	9	10	10	11
ARKANSAS	2	10	1	5	4	5	11	9
AUBURN	10	7	11	4	7	6	3	7
FLORIDA	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	2
GEORGIA	6	6	7	3	5	8	2	3
KENTUCKY	8	12	9	11	11	9	7	6
LOUISIANA ST.	9	5	2	8	6	11	12	10
MISSISSIPPI	5	4	8	9	3	4	6	8
MISS. ST.	7	11	10	7	10	3	4	5
S. CAROLINA	11	8	5	10	8	7	9	4
TENNESSEE	1	3	4	1	1	1	5	1
VANDERBILT	12	9	12	12	12	12	8	12

starved for success. But the Tim Couch joy ride is over. The Wildcats will be hard-pressed to match last season's seven victories, or even get the six needed to qualify for a bowl. In the Western Division, Arkansas suffered critical losses, especially on the offensive line. Even with key players like quarterback Clint Stoerner back, it's unlikely the Razorbacks will scramble to within a few plays of a Bowl Championship Series bid, as they did last year.

Best matchup: On September 18, the 1998 national champions visit the 1996 national champions. Tennessee got the Florida monkey off its back last fall in

BIG TEN

BIG TEN
CONFERENCE
RANK

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY RICH THOMASELLI, ANN ARBOR (MICH.) NEWS

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

	Conference			Overall						
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Wisconsin	7-1	221	91	11-1	382	143	60-42-4	.566	2,513	2,056
Ohio State	7-1	288	99	11-1	430	144	85-23-3	.766	3,338	1,634
Michigan	7-1	159	93	10-3	359	235	83-24-3	.755	3,218	1,786
Purdue	6-2	304	158	9-4	444	276	41-58-3	.402	2,480	2,684
Penn State	5-3	189	147	9-3	317	183	87-23	.791	3,384	1,836
Michigan State	4-4	223	193	6-6	336	294	47-56-2	.448	2,592	2,483
Minnesota	2-6	157	214	5-6	229	249	32-68	.320	2,012	2,889
Indiana	2-6	125	230	4-7	245	305	44-56-2	.431	2,132	2,428
Iowa	2-6	114	225	3-8	172	287	61-43-2	.575	2,827	2,313
Illinois	2-6	79	251	3-8	149	326	42-59-2	.408	2,017	2,377
Northwestern	0-8	93	251	3-9	214	337	40-62-1	.388	2,035	2,813

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS

SEASON KEYS
Offensive,
defensive

Best
offensive
players

Best
defensive
players

BIG GAMES
non-conference,
conference

1. PENN STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QB Kevin Thompson can't lose games. Small CBs could be exploited by big WRs. 	RB Eric McCoo T Kareem McKenzie	LB LaVar Arrington E Courtney Brown	Aug. 28 vs. Arizona Nov. 13 vs. Michigan
2. MICHIGAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WRs and TEs need to emerge. Need playmakers up front. 	T Jeff Backus TB Anthony Thomas	E James Hall NG Rob Renes	Sep. 4 vs. Notre Dame Nov. 13 at Penn State
3. WISCONSIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New QB is needed, as well as a kicker. Pass rushers have to develop. 	TB Ron Dayne T Chris McIntosh	CB Jamar Fletcher P Kevin Stemke	Sep. 18 at Cincinnati Sep. 25 vs. Michigan
4. OHIO STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running must carry load with new QB, WRs. Line needs to cover for depleted secondary. 	TB Michael Wiley G Rob Murphy	FS Gary Berry LB Na'il Diggs	Aug. 29 vs. Miami (Fla.) Oct. 16 at Penn State
5. PURDUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line needs to mature, new RBs must excel. Must find pass rushers with loss of star ends. 	QB Drew Brees WR Randall Lane	LB Jason Loerzel T Matt Mittrione	Sep. 11 vs. Notre Dame Oct. 2 at Michigan
6. MICHIGAN STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workhorse TB must emerge. Improvement is needed against the run. 	QB Bill Burke WR Plaxico Burress	SS Aric Morris E Robaire Smith	Sep. 2 vs. Oregon Nov. 6 vs. Ohio State
7. MINNESOTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit needs to mature and a kicker is needed. Veteran group can be hurt by aggressive style. 	C Ben Hamilton WR Luke Levenson	SS Tyrone Carter LB Sean Hoffman	Sep. 4 vs. Ohio Oct. 9 vs. Wisconsin
8. INDIANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No line depth or game-breaking RB, WR. Thin linebacking corps could be exposed. 	QB Antwaan Randle El T Pita Elisara	E Adewale Ogunleye T Jason Czap	Sep. 11 vs. North Carolina Oct. 23 at Iowa
9. IOWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking for improved QB play. Must get tougher against the run. 	TB Ladell Betts WR Kahlil Hill	LB Aaron Kampman CB Tarig Holman	Sep. 4 vs. Nebraska Nov. 20 vs. Minnesota
10. ILLINOIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need consistent QB, WRs must emerge. Strong LBs need to make big plays. 	T Marques Sullivan RB Steve Havard	LB Danny Clark E Rameel Connor	Sep. 18 at Louisville Sep. 25 vs. Michigan State
11. NORTHWESTERN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line needs to mature so skill talent can shine. Veteran line must cover for young LBs, DBs. 	TE Jay Tant G Brian Hemmerle	T Jeff Dyra LB Conrad Emmerich	Sep. 11 vs. Texas Christian Oct. 2 vs. Minnesota

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Drew Brees, Purdue

Former members of the San Francisco 49ers like to tell the story of Super Bowl 23, when the 49ers trailed the Cincinnati Bengals, 16-13, with 92 yards to travel in less than three minutes. What were quarterback Joe Montana's first words when he stepped into the huddle prior to leading his troops to the winning drive? "Hey, I think I see John Candy in the stands."

Well, not many celebrities make their way to West Lafayette, Ind., but Purdue quarterback Drew Brees has the same calming influence in the huddle.

"He's chatty," says tight end Tim Stratton. "He'll be in there talking to the linemen, asking for an extra second, or talking with the running backs. Or if they call a play for me, he'll be like, 'OK, Timmy, let's get this one done.' But the

best thing about him is if you drop a pass or make a mistake, the first thing he says when you come back to the huddle is, 'My fault. Don't worry. My mistake.' His poise is incredibly reassuring."

That poise helped Brees engineer Montana-like drives in comeback victories over Michigan State and Kansas State last season. After passing for a Big 10-record 3,983 yards and 39 touchdowns in leading the Boilermakers to a 9-4 mark and earning Big Ten offensive player of the year honors, Brees, a junior from Austin, Texas, whose size (6-1) and arm strength are similar to Montana, wants to eclipse the 4,000-yard, 40-TD pass thresholds this fall. Why not, given the explosiveness of Joe Tiller's spread-'em-out offense.

"You like looking in his eyes," says go-to wideout Randall Lane, "because you look at him and you just know you're going to win. That's a great thing to have in a quarterback."—Rich Thomaselli

DEFENSE



LaVar Arrington, Penn State

Almost a year later, while observers still shake their heads in amazement at the play, LaVar Arrington is decidedly low-key. "Aw, I just had an idea of what they were going to do," says Penn State's junior linebacker, TSN's Big Ten preseason defensive player of the year. "I figured they were going to go on a quick snap, and they did. That was all there was to it, really."

All Arrington did was turn in one of the plays of the season in 1998, timing an Illinois snap count to the nanosecond, leaping over the center and tackling full-back Elmer Hickman in the backfield on a fourth-down play. By the time anybody realized what had happened, Arrington was halfway to the bench. Not bad for a guy who, despite being named Parade Magazine's 1996 national high school

player of the year, still was somewhat of an unknown quantity when he arrived in State College, Pa.

"They didn't know what they wanted to do with me when I was first being recruited," Arrington says. "They originally wanted me as a running back, but I didn't want to play offense. I just love the defensive part of the game."

If the Nittany Lions' coaching staff first pursued Arrington as a running back, it was because of his 4,357 career rushing yards at North Hills High School in Pittsburgh, a Pennsylvania Class AAAA record. Then they saw what he did to ballcarriers.

Arrington was the only linebacker last season to earn first-team All-Big Ten honors from both the coaches and the media. "It takes a special person to play on the defensive side of the ball. The defense is like the Navy SEALs," he says. "It takes a special person to be a SEAL. I admire them. That's what defensive players are like. We go in and do the dirty work and never leave our guys behind."—Rich Thomaselli

PRESEASON

All-Big Ten

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Plaxico Burress, Michigan State	6-6	229	Jr.
WR	Randall Lane, Purdue	6-1	210	Sr.
TE	Tim Stratton, Purdue	6-4	234	So.
T	Chris McIntosh, Wisconsin	6-7	307	Sr.
T	Jeff Backus, Michigan	6-6	288	Jr.
G	Rob Murphy, Ohio State	6-5	300	Sr.
G	Steve Hutchinson, Michigan	6-5	296	Jr.
C	Casey Rabach, Wisconsin	6-5	287	Jr.
QB	Drew Brees, Purdue	6-1	212	Jr.
RB	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin	5-10	253	Sr.
RB	Michael Wiley, Ohio State	6-0	195	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Courtney Brown, Penn State	6-5	265	Sr.
E	Adewale Ogundimu, Indiana	6-5	260	Sr.
T	Rob Renes, Michigan	6-1	288	Jr.
LB	LaVar Arrington, Penn State	6-3	233	Jr.
LB	Brandon Short, Penn State	6-3	246	Sr.
LB	Na'il Diggs, Ohio State	6-4	235	Jr.
LB	Ian Gold, Michigan	6-1	213	Sr.
CB	Ahmed Plummer, Ohio State	6-0	190	Sr.
CB	David Macklin, Penn State	5-9	192	Sr.
S	Tyrone Carter, Minnesota	5-9	184	Sr.
S	Gary Berry, Ohio State	6-0	195	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Travis Forney, Penn State	5-9	161	Sr.
P	Kevin Stemke, Wisconsin	6-2	186	Jr.
KR	Nick Davis, Wisconsin	5-10	174	So.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Ken-Yon Rambo, Ohio State	6-1	190	Jr.
WR	Luke Leverson, Minnesota	6-0	181	Sr.
TE	Jay Tant, Northwestern	6-3	254	Sr.
T	Pita Elisara, Indiana	6-5	295	Sr.
T	John Blick, Penn State	6-6	314	Sr.
G	Ben Gilbert, Ohio State	6-5	295	Sr.
G	Chukky Okobi, Purdue	6-2	313	Jr.
C	Ben Hamilton, Minnesota	6-5	271	Jr.
QB	Antwaan Randle El, Indiana	5-10	177	So.
RB	Thomas Hamner, Minnesota	6-0	185	Sr.
RB	Anthony Thomas, Michigan	6-2	221	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Robaire Smith, Michigan State	6-5	269	Sr.
E	James Hall, Michigan	6-3	257	Sr.
T	Jeff Dyr, Northwestern	6-4	290	Sr.
LB	Danny Clark, Illinois	6-2	229	Sr.
LB	Mac Morrison, Penn State	6-1	240	Sr.
LB	Julian Peterson, Michigan State	6-4	235	Sr.
LB	Chris Ghidorzi, Wisconsin	6-3	237	Sr.
CB	Jamar Fletcher, Wisconsin	5-10	167	So.
CB	Tarig Holman, Iowa	6-0	195	Sr.
S	Aric Morris, Michigan State	5-11	207	Sr.
S	Tommy Hendricks, Michigan	6-2	215	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Paul Edinger, Michigan State	5-10	168	Sr.
P	Craig Jarrett, Michigan State	6-2	208	So.
KR	Sam Simmons, Northwestern	5-10	202	So.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Larry Shyne, WR, Purdue

Defense: T.J. Duckett, LB, Michigan State

1 Penn State

NATIONAL RANK
1

Site: University Park
Coach: Joe Paterno (307-80-3, 33 years)
Offensive coordinator: Fran Ganter (16th season)
Defensive coordinator: Jerry Sandusky (23rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 4
Lettermen lost: 13
Lettermen returning: 48
Stadium: Beaver (grass, 93,967)
Last league title won: 1994
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1988
1998 TSN rank: 15th
1998 record: 9-3 (beat Kentucky in Outback Bowl); Big Ten: 5-3 (5th)

1998 RESULTS

So. Mississippi, W 34-6
Bowling Green, W 48-3
at Pittsburgh, W 20-13
at Ohio State, L 28-9
at Minnesota, W 27-17
Purdue, W 31-13
Illinois, W 27-0
at Michigan, L 27-0
Northwestern, W 41-10
at Wisconsin, L 24-3
Michigan State, W 51-28
Kentucky, W 26-14

SCHEDULE

A28—Arizona
S4—Akron
S11—Pittsburgh
S18—at Miami, Fla.
S25—Indiana
O9—at Iowa
O16—Ohio State
O23—at Purdue
O30—at Illinois
N6—Minnesota
N13—Michigan
N20—at Michigan State

Quarterbacks: The quarterback's directive is no different than it has been in any of the 33 previous seasons Joe Paterno has been coach: nothing fancy, just don't screw anything up. That's Kevin Thompson's forte. After splitting time early last season with Rashard Casey, Thompson assumed the starter's role. He grew nicely into the job, finishing

with a strong performance in the Outback Bowl victory over Kentucky.

Running backs: Eric McCoo emerged as the main runner late last season and became the first true freshman to lead Penn State in rushing since D.J. Dozier in 1983. Tailback depth looks good, although a neck injury may prevent Cordell Mitchell from playing and Omar Easy must overcome fumbling problems. Fullback Mike Cerimele again will be the chief escort for the tailback. Aaron Harris, who ran for 112 yards last year after missing most of 1997 because of a knee injury, may be back.

Receivers: Thompson has plenty of reliable targets, which will make defenses play honestly against the dangerous McCoo. The prime receiver is senior Chafie Fields, who has the potential to be a game-breaker and is a threat on reverses. Corey Jones also is back. Coaches are waiting for Bruce Branch to emerge. Tight end Tony Stewart appears to be a quality replacement for Cunchio Brown.

Offensive line: This is one of the top lines in the Big Ten. Four starters are back. If you like size, you'll love these guys. Check out 6-7, 313-pound tackle Kareem McKenzie, who moved from guard to replace Floyd Wedderburn, and 6-6, 314-pound tackle John Blick. Quickness was a problem against teams like Michigan and Wisconsin last year, and that needs to be addressed. Gabe Tinker has the inside track to start in McKenzie's guard spot.

Defensive line: Justin Kurpeikis is the only new starter, and he gained experience last year as a back-up to end Brad Scioli. The other end is Courtney Brown, who anchored a line that helped limit foes to 97.3 yards rushing a game in '98. If teams are to succeed against the Nittany Lions, this is where it figures to happen. Michigan and Wisconsin won their trench battles with Penn State last season.

Linebackers: This is the best set of linebackers in the nation, and outside man LaVar Arrington is the nation's premier linebacker. Brandon Short is a run-stuffer inside. Mac Morrison is reliable at the other outside spot. All are big, strong, fast and aggressive.

Secondary: David Macklin, the top cover man in the Big Ten, teams with Anthony King to form the best cornerback tandem in the league. Neither stands

taller than 5-9, so matchup problems can occur. The secondary typifies the big-play aspect of the defense; it accounted for 14 of the team's 17 interceptions last year and returned three for touchdowns.

Special teams: Macklin's contributions include blocking kicks; he has blocked two punts and a field goal for Penn State. The return men have the potential to be dangerous, and punter Pat Pidgeon and kicker Travis Forney are among the best in the conference.

Schedule: Penn State is TSN's choice as the national champion, and the Lions will have earned it. They



Grand debut: McCoo's rapid emergence as a freshman last season is one reason why people are so excited about Penn State this season.

open the season by playing host to Arizona in the Pigskin Classic and close their non-conference slate with a game at Miami, Fla. At least Ohio State and Michigan come to Happy Valley, and Wisconsin is not on the schedule.

Coaching: JoePa shows no signs of slowing down. His 50th season at Penn State—34th as head coach—could be one of his best. The stability of his staff is the envy of the nation. Six of his assistants have been in State College for at least 12 years.

Outlook: With a few breaks, the Nittany Lions could claim their third national championship after just missing in 1994. Buoyed by an awesome defense, Penn State's hopes are dependent on consistent play from Thompson, avoiding injury to the running backs and dominating in the trenches.

NITTANY LIONS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Corey Jones	5-10	168	Sr.	Sam Crenshaw	6-2	210	Jr.
T Kareem McKenzie	6-7	313	Jr.	Jason Bisson	6-7	298	Jr.
G Gabe Tinker	6-2	294	Sr.	Jordan Caruso	6-4	302	Jr.
C Rich Stankewicz	6-3	286	Sr.	Francis Spano	6-1	285	Sr.
G Eric Cole	6-5	302	Sr.	Greg Ransom	6-2	291	Jr.
T John Blick	6-6	314	Sr.	Matt Schmitt	6-4	295	So.
TE Tony Stewart	6-5	256	Jr.	Garrett Watkins	6-3	239	Sr.
WR Chafie Fields	6-1	197	Sr.	Bruce Branch	5-11	184	Jr.
QB Kevin Thompson	6-5	219	Sr.	Rashard Casey	6-1	205	Sr.
RB Eric McCoo	5-10	195	So.	Cordell Mitchell	6-0	199	Sr.
FB Mike Cerimele	5-10	233	Jr.	Aaron Harris	5-11	231	Sr.

DEFENSE

E Courtney Brown	6-5	265	Sr.	Marc Kiemeyer	6-6	253	Sr.
T David Fleischhauer	6-3	274	Sr.	Anthony Adams	6-0	285	So.
NT Imani Bell	6-4	294	Sr.	Jason Wallace	6-4	279	Sr.
E Justin Kurpeikis	6-4	247	Sr.	Bob Jones	6-5	271	So.
OLB LaVar Arrington	6-3	233	Jr.	Aaron Gatten	6-1	230	Sr.
MLB Brandon Short	6-3	246	Sr.	Maurice Daniels	6-0	231	Sr.
OLB Mac Morrison	6-1	240	Sr.	Eric Sturdiven	6-2	232	Sr.
CB David Macklin	5-9	192	Sr.	Mike Johnson	6-0	175	So.
SS Derek Fox	5-11	200	Sr.	Shawn Mayer	6-0	189	So.
FS Askari Adams	6-0	191	Sr.	James Boyd	6-0	208	Jr.
CB Anthony King	5-8	173	Sr.	Bhawoh Jue	6-1	189	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Travis Forney	5-9	161	Sr.	P Pat Pidgeon	5-10	198	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

2 Michigan

Site: Ann Arbor
Coach: Lloyd Carr (39-11, 4 years)

Offensive coordinator:

Mike DeBord (8th season)

Defensive coordinator:

Jim Herrmann (10th season)

Offensive scheme:

Multiple

Defensive scheme:

Situational

Starters lost: 8

Lettermen lost: 19

Lettermen returning: 44

Stadium: Michigan (grass, 107,501)

Last league title won:

1997

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1974

1998 TSN rank: 9th

1998 record: 10-3 (beat Arkansas in Florida Citrus Bowl); Big Ten: 7-1 (tie 1st)

1998 RESULTS

at Notre Dame, L 36-20

Syracuse, L 38-28

Eastern Michigan, W 59-20

Michigan State, W 29-17

at Iowa, W 12-9

at Northwestern, W 12-6

Indiana, W 21-10

at Minnesota, W 15-10

Penn State, W 27-0

Wisconsin, W 27-10

at Ohio State, L 31-16

at Hawaii, W 48-17

Arkansas, W 45-31

SCHEDULE

S4—Notre Dame

S11—Rice

S18—at Syracuse

S25—at Wisconsin

O2—Purdue

O9—at Michigan State

O23—Illinois

O30—at Indiana

N6—Northwestern

N13—at Penn State

N20—Ohio State

NATIONAL
RANK
7

Quarterbacks: Coach Lloyd Carr can't go wrong. Tom Brady completed 61 percent of his passes and threw for 2,636 yards last season, his first as a starter. Brady, a fifth-year senior, has a strong arm and 13 games of experience.

Sophomore Drew Henson has a great arm and far better speed

than Brady. Don't expect Carr to put the inexperienced Henson in the lineup to start the season against Notre Dame, but Henson quickly could pass Brady. Henson also plays baseball in the New York Yankees' farm system, and Carr hardly wants the young quarterback to grow impatient and go to baseball fulltime.

Running backs: The Wolverines, kings of "3 yards and a cloud of dust," have little depth. Anthony Thomas sometimes goes into a funk and hits holes with the authority of a ballet dancer. Problem is, Clarence Williams has graduated and super sophomore Justin Fargas will be redshirted after suffering a broken leg against Wisconsin last season. Demetrius Smith has been moved from fullback to defense, and fullback Ray Jackson has been kicked off the team. Sophomore Walter Cross will spell Thomas. Converted tight end Aaron Shea might be the best blocking fullback in the conference.

Receivers: Tai Streets is gone, but Marcus Knight, DiAllo Johnson, David Terrell and Marquise Walker return, and the Wolverines signed two highly regarded receivers. Redshirt freshmen Bennie Joppru and Deitan Dubuc will battle for the tight end spot vacated by Jerame Tuman. Both are good blockers.

Defensive line: Tackle Jon Jansen will be missed, but this group—which along with linebackers may be the best units on the team—won't skip a beat. The core of Jeff Backus, Steve Hutchinson, David Brandt and Steve Frazier has been together for two seasons. They physically control the line.

Defensive line: End Juajuan Feazell is gone, but he wasn't a premier pass rusher. James Hall returns, along with strong nose tackle Rob Renes and tackle Josh Williams. Teams rarely try to run the ball between the guards against Michigan. James Hall needs to provide a vicious pass rush.

Linebackers: There is so much depth that lightning-quick Dhani Jones will move back outside, a switch that is sure to terrorize foes. Look for Ian Gold and Larry Foote, who excelled in the spring, to take over inside. They might take time to develop into the solid run defender that Sam Sword was, but they have more quickness and can cover receivers out of the backfield.

Secondary: Major concerns. Strong safety Marcus Ray and cornerback Andre Weathers are gone, and

corner William Peterson has been kicked off the team. The coaches looked at Terrell at cornerback in spring practice. Speedy redshirt freshman cornerback Cato June also could be a solution. Coaches can count on strong safety Tommy Hendricks.

Special teams: Fargas will be greatly missed as a kickoff returner. Punt returns could be handled by committee. One thing the Wolverines can count on is Hayden Epstein's right leg. The sophomore consistently booms kickoffs out of the end zone, and he will take over as the top kicker. Cory Sargent and Epstein will



Standing tall: Gold's lack of size could prove detrimental in taking on linemen and stopping the run from his inside linebacker position.

compete for the punting duties.

Schedule: Michigan was hurt last year by option teams, and they will play three in a row to start the season: Notre Dame, Rice and Syracuse. Wisconsin also runs some option. Michigan travels to Wisconsin, Penn State and Michigan State.

Coaching: Carr has proved himself as a worthy successor to the Bo Schembechler legacy. Jim Herrmann is one of the nation's best defensive coordinators. Teryl Austin was hired to replace secondary coach Vance Bedford, who left for the Chicago Bears.

Outlook: The Wolverines need to win some road games with formidable opponents to stay in the national title hunt. That will be difficult if injuries hit the running back corps, no go-to wideout emerges and the secondary fails to develop.

WOLVERINES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Marcus Knight	6-1	181	Sr.	DiAllo Johnson	6-3	193	Sr.
T Jeff Backus	6-6	288	Jr.	Jeff Potts	6-7	293	Sr.
G Steve Hutchinson	6-5	296	Jr.	Jonathan Goodwin	6-4	290	Jr.
C David Brandt	6-4	293	Jr.	Adam Atkins	6-3	280	So.
G Maurice Williams	6-5	283	Jr.	Steve Fraizer	6-4	288	Sr.
T Chris Ziemann	6-7	288	Sr.	Ben Mast	6-4	284	So.
TE Shawn Thompson	6-4	243	So.	Bill Seymour	6-3	248	So.
WR David Terrell	6-3	198	So.	Marquise Walker	6-3	189	So.
QB Tom Brady	6-5	213	Sr.	Drew Henson	6-4	221	So.
RB Anthony Thomas	6-2	221	Jr.	Walter Cross	5-11	196	So.
FB Aaron Shea	6-5	251	Sr.	Evan Coleman	6-0	258	So.

DEFENSE

E James Hall	6-3	257	Sr.	*Shawn Lazarus	6-3	227	Fr.
NG Rob Renes	6-1	288	Sr.	*John Wood	6-4	242	Fr.
T Josh Williams	6-3	279	Sr.	*Dave Armstrong	6-3	260	Fr.
E Eric Wilson	6-4	279	Jr.	Jake Frysinger	6-4	272	Jr.
OLB Grady Brooks	6-2	250	Jr.	Eric Rosel	6-3	225	So.
ILB Dhani Jones	6-2	225	Sr.	Larry Foote	6-1	211	So.
ILB Ian Gold	6-1	213	Sr.	Eric Brackins	6-2	229	So.
CB James Whitley	5-11	190	Jr.	*Julius Curry	6-0	180	Fr.
SS Tommy Hendricks	6-2	215	Sr.	Kenneth Jackson	5-10	183	Sr.
FS DeWayne Patmon	6-0	181	Jr.	Tate Schanski	5-11	190	Sr.
CB Todd Howard	5-10	178	So.	*Cato June	6-1	201	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Hayden Epstein	6-2	194	So.	P Hayden Epstein	6-2	194	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

3 Wisconsin

NATIONAL RANK
9

Site: Madison

Coach: Barry Alvarez
(60-42-4, 9 years)

Offensive coordinator:
Brian White (1st season)

Defensive coordinator:
Kevin Cosgrove (5th season)

Offensive scheme:
Offset I

Defensive scheme:
Multiple

Starters lost: 8

Lettermen lost: 17

Lettermen returning:
52

Stadium: Camp Randall
(turf, 76,129)

Last league title won:
1998 (tie)

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1995

1998 TSN rank: 6th
1998 record: 11-1 (beat UCLA in Rose Bowl); Big Ten: 7-1 (tie 1st)

1998 RESULTS
at San Diego St., W 26-14
Ohio, W 45-0
UNLV, W 52-7
Northwestern, W 38-7
at Indiana, W 24-20
Purdue, W 31-24
at Illinois, W 37-3
at Iowa, W 31-0
Minnesota, W 26-7
at Michigan, L 27-10
Penn State, W 24-3
UCLA, W 38-31

SCHEDULE

S4—Murray State
S11—Ball State
S18—at Cincinnati
S25—Michigan
O2—at Ohio State
O9—at Minnesota
O16—Indiana
O23—Michigan State
O30—at Northwestern
N6—at Purdue
N13—Iowa

Quarterbacks: Bash Mike Samuel's passing all you want—he ran the offense well. Now he's gone, and Barry Alvarez will choose among senior Scott Kavanagh, sophomore Peter Lee and redshirt freshman Brooks Bollinger. Bollinger, a runner/passing type, may have the inside track. Wisconsin ran 75 percent of the time last season en route to earning a trip to the Rose Bowl. If the attack becomes more balanced, Kavanagh or Lee is the favorite.

Running backs: The last hurrah for Ron Dayne. The 253-pound tailback needs 499 yards to break Archie Griffin's Big Ten career rushing record and 1,717 yards to break Ricky Williams' Division I-A mark. Dayne has been criticized for being injury-prone and for gaining most of his yards against lesser teams. Still, he's among the nation's best. Eddie Faulkner is a worthy backup. Fullback Cecil Martin's blocking will be missed.

Receivers: Chris Chambers makes the most of his rare opportunities; he had seven touchdown catches last season. Ahmad Merritt has 27 catches in three seasons and he has developed into an outstanding downfield blocker for Dayne. Chambers and Merritt are ready and able should Alvarez decide to include more passing in the offense.

Offensive line: OK, no jokes about there being a big hole to fill at right tackle with 385-pound Aaron Gibson gone. Four starters return, headed by Chris McIntosh, among the



Good company: Favret is a hard-charging player whose numbers after his first two seasons exceed those of the departed Burke.

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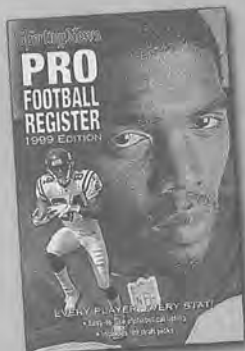
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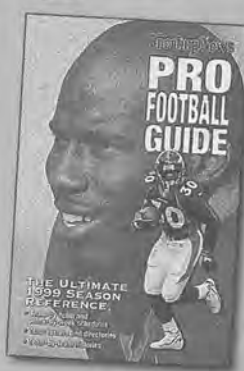
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nation's best tackles. Casey Rabach is the league's best center. This is a strong, quick line that run-blocks about as well as any unit in the nation.

Defensive line: The Badgers lost pass rusher deluxe Tom Burke, but there is no reason why the line shouldn't be as good as it was last year, when Wisconsin led the nation in scoring defense (10.2 points a game). End John Favret is a strong pass rusher. Ross Kolodziej will move from tackle to Burke's end spot. Tackle Wendell Bryant has star potential. This is an excellent run-stuffing front.

Linebackers: Leading tacklers Donnel Thompson and Chris Ghidorzi are back. The key might be the return of outside man Roger Knight, who is coming off a broken right arm. If Knight plays at his previous level, this unit will have few peers.

Secondary: This unit came of age as last season progressed. Cornerbacks Jamar Fletcher and Mike Echols fit in quickly as freshmen, playing a big role in 'opponents' completion rate dropping from 61 to 54 percent and touchdown passes from 14 to eight. Free safety Jason Doering is a former walk-on who makes receivers pay for venturing over the middle. Bobby Myers, who has been a nickel back, will assume the starting strong safety spot.

Special teams: The best in the league. Cannon-legged Vitaly Pisetsky takes over for standout kicker Matt Davenport. As a true freshman last year, Nick Davis ranked third nationally in punt return average (15.7 yards) and returned two for touchdowns. Punter Kevin Stemke led the Big Ten with a 44-yard average.

Schedule: Favorable, again. The non-conference is cake. If Wisconsin hopes to repeat as Big Ten champ, it needs to beat Ohio State or Purdue on the road and take care of Michigan at home. Penn State is not on the schedule.

Coaching: Alvarez will become the school's all-time winningest coach this year. He has taken Wisconsin to five bowls—the Badgers had been to six before his arrival. For the first time in three seasons, Alvarez had to make staff changes. With Brad Childress off to the Philadelphia Eagles, Brian White was promoted from running backs coach to offensive coordinator. Jeff Horton, former head coach at Nevada and UNLV, is the new quarterbacks coach.

Outlook: If a quarterback, kicker and pass rusher develop in time for the difficult Big Ten road games, Wisconsin's football team could have a rosy look about it again this season.

BADGERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Ahmad Merritt	5-10	194	Sr.	Nick Davis	5-10	174	So.
T	Chris McIntosh	6-7	307	Sr.	*Jason Jowers	6-6	310	Fr.
G	Bill Ferrario	6-3	299	Jr.	Rob Roell	6-5	260	Sr.
C	Casey Rabach	6-5	297	Jr.	*Al Johnson	6-4	289	Fr.
G	Dave Costa	6-5	293	Jr.	*Terry Stephan	6-3	296	Fr.
T	Brian Lamont	6-8	316	So.	*Ben Johnson	6-7	319	Fr.
TE	Dague Retzlaff	6-8	280	Jr.	John Sigmund	6-6	281	Jr.
WR	Chris Chambers	6-1	203	Jr.	Conroy Whyte	5-7	155	So.
QB	Scott Kavanagh	6-4	214	Sr.	*Brooks Bollinger	6-2	200	Fr.
TB	Ron Dayne	5-10	253	Sr.	Carlos Daniels	6-1	243	So.
FB	Chad Kuhns	6-1	242	So.	Marcus Carpenter	6-2	244	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Ross Kolodziej	6-3	284	Jr.	Jake Sprague	6-4	279	So.
NT	Eric Mahlik	6-3	263	Jr.	Chris Janek	6-2	274	Sr.
E	Wendell Bryant	6-4	298	So.	Sam Mueller	6-5	252	Jr.
OLB	John Favret	6-4	231	Jr.	Donny Eicher	6-3	258	Sr.
ILB	Chris Ghidorzi	6-3	237	Sr.	Roger Knight	6-2	239	Jr.
ILB	Donnel Thompson	6-0	235	Sr.	Ben Herbert	6-4	231	So.
OLB	Dan Lisowski	6-1	220	So.	Bryson Thompson	6-1	220	So.
CB	Mike Echols	5-10	173	So.	Donte King	5-10	183	Jr.
SS	Bobby Myers	6-2	183	Sr.	Bret Burlingame	6-0	194	Jr.
FS	Jason Doering	6-0	201	Jr.	*Devery Hughes	5-11	180	Fr.
CB	Jamar Fletcher	5-10	171	So.	Joey Boese	5-11	161	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Vitaly Pisetsky	5-10	224	Sr.	P	Kevin Stemke	6-2	186	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

4 Ohio State

Site: Columbus
Coach: John Cooper (97-33-4, 11 years; 179-73-6 overall, 22 years)
Offensive coordinator: Mike Jacobs (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Fred Pagac (4th season)
Offensive scheme: I formation
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 14
Lettermen returning: 42
Stadium: Ohio (grass, 89,841)
Last league title won: 1998 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1988
1998 TSN rank: 2nd
1998 record: 11-1 (beat Texas A&M in Sugar Bowl); Big Ten: 7-1 (tie 1st)

1998 RESULTS

at West Virginia, W 34-17
 Toledo, W 49-0
 Missouri, W 35-14
 Penn State, W 28-9
 at Illinois, W 41-0
 Minnesota, W 45-15
 at Northwestern, W 36-10
 at Indiana, W 38-7
 Michigan State, L 28-24
 at Iowa, W 45-14
 Michigan, W 31-16
 Texas A&M, W 24-14

SCHEDULE

A29—Miami, Fla.*
 S11—UCLA
 S18—Ohio
 S25—Cincinnati
 O2—Wisconsin
 O9—Purdue
 O16—at Penn State
 O23—at Minnesota
 O30—Iowa
 N6—at Michigan State
 N13—Illinois
 N20—at Michigan
 *at East Rutherford, N.J.

NATIONAL RANK
11

Quarterbacks: How inexperienced are sophomores Steve Bellisari and Austin Moherman? They've completed three passes between them, two fewer than tailback Michael Wiley. With three series of experience between them, Bellisari and Moherman step into the void left by Joe Germaine, who set

11 school passing records last year. Coaches love the athletic ability of Bellisari, who excelled on special teams last year, and they like Moherman's arm. Don't be surprised to see John Cooper begin the year using both, as he did with Germaine and Stanley Jackson in 1996 and '97.

Running backs: Whoever emerges as the quarterback can ease into the job knowing he can rely on two quality receivers, four returning line starters and Wiley. A speedy, elusive runner, Wiley rushed for 1,235 yards and averaged 6.2 yards per carry last season. Derek Combs and Jonathan Wells also are talented runners. Matt Keller is one of the best fullbacks in the nation.

Receivers: Gone: David Boston, Dee Miller and tight end John Lumpkin. Back: Reggie Germany, Ken-Yon Rambo and tight end Steve Wisniewski. It's hard to trade results for potential, but the Buckeyes could have an outstanding corps. Germany and Rambo had a few shining moments in backup roles last year. Germany, a hurdler on the track team, might have more quickness than the departed receivers.

Inexperience at quarterback may prevent this group from getting the ball as often as Boston and Miller did.

Offensive line: How good is this line? Guard Rob Murphy earned All-American mention in some circles last year and wasn't voted the team's best lineman. Coaches gave that honor to guard Ben Gilbert, who is back. Right tackle Brooks Burris is the only loss.

Finding a solid replacement is imperative if Bellisari is the quarterback; the lefthander needs blind-side protection.

Defensive line: This group is the foundation of the defense. All four starters return, including end Brent Johnson, and all four backups are back. Johnson had 40 tackles, most among the linemen, and seven sacks, most on the team, last season. Tackle Ryan Pickett, who started as a true freshman in 1998, is a rising star.

Linebackers: The Buckeyes lost a lot of talent in this corps and in the secondary. It's up to senior Chris Kirk to replace his high school teammate, Andy Katzenmoyer, in the middle. Speedy Courtland Bullard is the favorite to replace Jerry Rudzinski at an outside spot. Much is expected of Na'il Diggs, a first-team All-Big Ten pick last season.

Secondary: Thorpe Award winner Antoine Winfield is gone from a cornerback spot, as is three-year starting strong safety Damon Moore. Cornerback Ahmed Plummer and free safety Gary Berry are back. It will be difficult to throw against the Buckeyes because of Berry, the top athlete in the secondary. He roams the field and makes big plays.

Special teams: Dan Stultz is back, although he made just 13 of 25 field-goal attempts last year. The Buckeyes need a replacement for punter Brent Bartholomew, who was good enough to be drafted by



BOB LEVERONE/TSN

Buckeyes blaster: A former defensive end, Diggs has what it takes to become Ohio State's next great linebacker—if he isn't already.

the NFL.

Schedule: There's not much wiggle room for Cooper, given the quarterback situation. Ohio State opens with Miami (Fla.) in the Kickoff Classic, then plays host to UCLA. The Buckeyes begin Big Ten play with Wisconsin, Purdue and Penn State. The season ends with a trip to Ann Arbor.

Coaching: This staff is the best in the Big Ten. The Buckeyes routinely lose quality players to the NFL, yet worthy replacements always are ready to step into the voids.

Outlook: The Buckeyes need to be dominant in the trenches on both sides of the ball while a quarterback, wideouts, linebackers and a secondary develop. A murderous schedule likely will spell the end of a run of four straight 10-win seasons.

BUCKEYES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Reggie Germany	6-2	195	Jr.	Darik Warneke	6-0	196	Jr.
T	Tyson Walter	6-5	305	Jr.	Jim Massey	6-5	285	So.
G	Rob Murphy	6-5	300	Sr.	Mike Gurr	6-7	270	Jr.
C	Kurt Murphy	6-4	290	Sr.	LeCharles Bentley	6-3	265	So.
G	Ben Gilbert	6-5	295	Sr.	*Scott Kuhnhein	6-6	285	Fr.
T	Henry Fleming	6-7	305	Jr.	Tam Hopkins	6-5	295	Jr.
TE	Steve Wisniewski	6-5	265	Sr.	Kevin Houser	6-3	250	Sr.
WR	Ken-Yon Rambo	6-1	190	Jr.	Tony Locke	5-10	185	Jr.
QB	Steve Bellisari	6-3	210	So.	Austin Moherman	6-5	215	So.
RB	Michael Wiley	6-0	195	Sr.	Derek Combs	6-2	197	Jr.
FB	Matt Keller	6-0	238	Sr.	Jamar Martin	6-1	235	So.

DEFENSE

E	Rodney Bailey	6-3	255	Jr.	Matt LaVar	6-3	240	Sr.
T	Ryan Pickett	6-3	290	So.	Clinton Wayne	6-3	275	Jr.
T	Joe Brown	6-6	285	Jr.	Mike Collins	6-3	290	So.
E	Brent Johnson	6-4	265	Jr.	James Cotton	6-4	245	Sr.
OLB	Na'il Diggs	6-4	235	Jr.	Tim Cheatwood	6-4	215	So.
MLB	Chris Kirk	6-3	235	Sr.	Jason Ott	6-4	240	So.
OLB	Courtland Bullard	6-3	220	So.	Joe Cooper	6-2	213	Jr.
CB	Nate Clements	6-0	185	So.	David Mitchell	6-1	195	Jr.
SS	Percy King	6-4	210	Sr.	*Donnie Nickey	6-3	203	Fr.
FS	Gary Berry	6-0	195	Sr.	David Mitchell	6-1	195	Jr.
CB	Ahmed Plummer	6-0	190	Sr.	Derek Ross	6-1	190	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Dan Stultz	6-0	205	Jr.	P	B.J. Sander	6-3	195	Fr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

5 Purdue

Site: West Lafayette, Ind.
Coach: Joe Tiller (18-7, 2 years; 55-37-1 overall, 8 years)
Offensive coordinator: Jim Chaney (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Brock Spack (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: 1-back
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 48
Stadium: Ross-Ade (grass, 67,332)
Last league title won: 1967 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 22nd
1998 record: 9-4 (beat Kansas State in Alamo Bowl); Big Ten: 6-2 (4th)

1998 RESULTS

at So. California, L 27-17
 Rice, W 21-19
 Central Florida, W 35-7
 at Notre Dame, L 31-30
 Minnesota, W 56-21
 at Wisconsin, L 31-24
 at Penn State, L 31-13
 Illinois, W 42-9
 Iowa, W 36-14
 at Northwestern, W 56-21
 at Michigan St., W 25-24
 Indiana, W 52-7
 Kansas State, W 37-34

SCHEDULE

S4—at Central Florida
 S11—Notre Dame
 S18—Central Michigan
 S25—Northwestern
 O2—at Michigan
 O9—at Ohio State
 O16—Michigan State
 O23—Penn State
 O30—at Minnesota
 N6—Wisconsin
 N20—at Indiana

NATIONAL RANK
21

Quarterbacks: There is no controversy, dilemma, distraction or problem here. Drew Brees is back for his junior year after passing for a Big Ten-record 3,983 yards and 39 touchdowns last season. The 1998 Big Ten offensive player of the year lacks a big arm, but no one can doubt his stamina;

he threw an NCAA-record 83 passes against Wisconsin last year. The coaching staff is working with Brees on the mental aspects of the game. He threw 20 interceptions last year, some of them forced, some of them at critical times. If Brees can reduce his mistakes, Joe Tiller's passing offense will be that much more effective.

Running backs: These guys need to take advantage of the gaps the spread attack creates. J. Crabtree is tough and strong, but he lacks a burst. Crabtree was suspended from spring practice for unbecoming conduct, leaving workmanlike Dondre Johnson as the No. 1 back. Redshirt freshmen Montrell Lowe, Sedrick Brown and Steve Ennis are talented but lack experience. Someone needs to emerge. Coaches have installed some two-tight end sets to help energize the one-back attack.

Receivers: This group dropped too many passes last year, but gained much experience. Big and strong Randall Lane is the go-to guy. Fleet Vinny Sutherland is a defense-stretcher. Tim Stratton is a move-the-chains tight end. A.T. Simpson brims with potential. A newcomer, junior college transfer Larry Shyne, could emerge as a star. And don't forget Cliff Jackson, who is coming off a knee injury. Tight ends Doyal Butler and Pete Loughheed will get plenty of work in a new H-back scheme.

Offensive line: All five starters are back, but changes could be forthcoming. This unit was solid at pass protection last season, but had problems run-blocking. The Boilermakers have an athletic line, but Tiller might be willing to exchange some of that for more bulk and strength. Redshirt freshman guard Gene Mruczkowski has both of those attributes.

Defensive line: Ends Roosevelt Colvin and Chike Okefor need to be replaced. Junior college transfer Akin Ayodele will fill one of those voids; coaches love his speed and strength. Ike Moore and Derrick Williams are battling for the other end spot. Tackles David Nugent and Matt Mitrione are big, tough and strong.

Linebackers: A thin unit will get thinner if Willie Fells, last year's leading tackler, isn't reinstated to the team; he was suspended last spring after running afoul of the law. Rangy Jason Loerzel and Mike Rose fly to the ball, and undersized redshirt freshman Joe Odom

needs to do the same. This unit is so unsettled that several true freshmen may need to play.

Secondary: Two starters return, although cornerback Michael Hawthorne continues to battle back problems that forced him to miss most of last year. With the linebackers corps depleted, it is imperative that safeties Adrian Beasley and Ben Smith help against the run.

Special teams: Danny Rogers, who averaged 39.9 yards a punt last season, needs to become more consistent. Travis Dorsch, who made six of nine field-goal attempts from 40 to 49 yards last season, could



Going deep: After playing in the slot the past two years, Sutherland will line up wide in hopes of stretching defenses with his speed.

become a great kicker. Chris Clopton needs to energize the return game.

Schedule: Purdue needs a 4-0 start, which would mean beating Notre Dame at home. October opens with trips to Michigan and Ohio State—the Boilermakers haven't played either team in Tiller's two years. Penn State and Wisconsin visit West Lafayette.

Coaching: Tiller has 18 victories in two seasons at Purdue. Former coach Jim Colletto won 21 games in six seasons. And just think: Tiller still isn't playing with a roster he has stocked.

Outlook: Even if they can't achieve last year's success, the Boilermakers should qualify for a bowl. The offense should soar. The onus is on the defense, which has thrived on being opportunistic (plus-19 turnover margin the past two years).

BOILERMAKERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Vinny Sutherland	5-10	188	Jr.	Chris Daniels	6-3	202	Sr.
T	Matt Light	6-4	283	Jr.	Ian Allen	6-4	279	Jr.
G	*Gene Mruczkowski	6-3	307	Fr.	Aaron Starnes	6-3	301	Sr.
C	Jim Niedrach	6-3	282	Sr.	Josh Kirkpatrick	6-1	268	So.
G	Chukky Okobi	6-2	313	Jr.	*Rob Turner	6-4	286	Fr.
T	Brandon Gorin	6-6	285	Jr.	*Kelly Kitchel	6-6	280	Fr.
TE	Tim Stratton	6-4	234	So.	Chris Randolph	6-5	250	So.
WR	A.T. Simpson	6-5	204	So.	Cliff Jackson	5-10	183	Sr.
QB	Drew Brees	6-1	212	Jr.	David Edgerton	6-2	213	Jr.
RB	Dondre Johnson	6-0	213	So.	*Steve Ennis	6-0	211	Fr.
WR	Randall Lane	6-1	205	Sr.	Robert Tolbert	6-1	182	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Ike Moore	6-2	263	Jr.	Derrick Williams	6-4	297	Jr.
T	Matt Mitrione	6-3	286	So.	Brent Botts	6-3	264	Jr.
T	David Nugent	6-5	291	Sr.	Sean Rufalo	6-3	268	So.
E	Brian Dinkins	6-2	239	Jr.	Akin Ayodele	6-2	235	So.
OLB	Jason Loerzel	6-3	212	So.	Tim Upshur	6-2	206	So.
MLB	*Joe Odom	6-1	205	Fr.	Ray Lee	6-1	240	Sr.
OLB	Mike Rose	6-1	206	Sr.	*Cornell Middlebrook	6-2	232	Fr.
CB	Chris Clopton	5-7	159	Jr.	Michael Hawthorne	6-3	195	Sr.
SS	Adrian Beasley	6-0	194	Sr.	*Ralph Turner	6-2	206	Fr.
FS	Ben Smith	6-3	195	So.	Lamar Conard	5-10	199	Sr.
CB	*James Dunnigan	5-9	179	Fr.	R'Kes Starling	5-8	169	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Travis Dorsch	6-6	192	So.	P	Danny Rogers	5-10	205	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

6 Michigan State

Site: East Lansing
Coach: Nick Saban (25-22-1, 4 years; 34-24-1 overall, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Morris Watts (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Bill Miller (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 10
Lettermen returning: 44
Stadium: Spartan (turf, 72,027)
Last league title won: 1990 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 40th
1998 record: 6-6; Big 10: 4-4 (6th)

1998 RESULTS

Colorado State, L 23-16
 at Oregon, L 48-14
 Notre Dame, W 45-23
 at Michigan, L 29-17
 Central Michigan, W 38-7
 Indiana, W 38-31 (OT)
 at Minnesota, L 19-18
 Northwestern, W 29-5
 at Ohio State, W 28-24
 Purdue, L 25-24
 Illinois, W 41-9
 at Penn State, L 51-28

SCHEDULE

S2—Oregon
 S11—Eastern Michigan
 S18—at Notre Dame
 S25—at Illinois
 O2—Iowa
 O9—Michigan
 O16—at Purdue
 O23—at Wisconsin
 N6—Ohio State
 N13—at Northwestern
 N20—Penn State

NATIONAL RANK
27

Quarterbacks: Bill Burke's back problems are behind him; he is physically and mentally ahead of touted sophomore Ryan VanDyke. The Spartans need a lot more than numbers out of Burke, however.

Inconsistent some times, spectacular at others, the senior has to emerge as a leader now that

tailback Sedrick Irvin is off to the NFL. Michigan State floundered at times last year, and it proved costly in several narrow losses. Burke needs to be spectacular and steady.

Running backs: Irvin is gone, and coach Nick Saban doesn't want a tailback-by-committee. Steady Lloyd Clemons looks to be the heir apparent, but he needs to graduate by the end of the summer to earn a final season of eligibility. Shawn Foster and Little John Flowers are more equipped to produce big plays than Clemons. Another option is Leroy McFadden, a former fullback whose old role will be filled by Billy Greene.

Receivers: If Saban hopes to take advantage of the Big Ten's best set of wideouts, he needs to develop a ground game to keep defenses honest. Plaxico Burress and Gari Scott are outstanding. Both have speed, strength and great hands. It's a pick-your-poison proposition for defensive coaches. Lavaile Richardson and Herb Haygood offer great depth. Four strong players make the tight end spot valuable.

Offensive line: Drastic improvement is needed, and Saban has paid much attention to this unit. Junior college transfer Tupe Peko will make an immediate impact at left tackle. Peko's presence shifts Dave Sucura to guard and puts one of last year's starters, Paul Harker, on the bench. Tackle Greg Robinson-Randall and guard Shaun Mason are on the right side. If the moves work, this will be a vastly improved area.

Defensive line: While Dimitrius Underwood is gone, end Robaire Smith is back after recovering from a broken leg suffered late last season. He and Julian Peterson form the best end duo in the Big Ten. Saban is so happy with this unit that he might move Peterson to outside linebacker on first and second downs and put him at end on passing downs. The reason? Hubert "Boo Boo" Thompson. The sophomore made some boo-boos last year, when he was an academic casualty and also went afoul of the law. If he's on the team, he will play. The depth at end allows Jace Saylor to switch to tackle.

Linebackers: T. J. Turner and Josh Thornhill made the defense better in the second half of last season, when they manned the middle and the weakside spots, respectively. The battle is on the strong side, where Peterson and veteran Mike Austin both could play. Needless to say, there's experience. Throw in freshman

T.J. Duckett, and this could be the strongest unit on the defense. Keep an eye on Duckett. He also played quarterback in high school, and Saban plans on using him in the offensive backfield at times.

Secondary: Like Clemons, safety Amp Campbell can secure an extra year of eligibility if he graduates this summer. He also must overcome a serious neck injury. Campbell's presence would strengthen a terrific unit. Underrated and unheralded corners Renaldo Hill and Cedric Henry are great in coverage. Richard Newsome should fill a safety spot opposite Campbell.



Zero hour: With the running game in flux, the Spartans need Burke—whose career has been marked by inconsistency—to step up his game.

Special teams: Paul Edinger made a league-best 22 field goals last year. Craig Jarrett impressed as a freshman by averaging 43.8 yards a punt. With Irvin gone, a return man is needed.

Schedule: A season-opening win against Oregon would set a good tone. The Spartans travel to Purdue and Wisconsin, but they get Michigan, Ohio State and Penn State at home.

Coaching: Turnover is an annual rite for Saban. This year, offensive coordinator Gary Tranquill is out; Morris Watts, coming from Louisiana State, is in. Saban assumed command of the defense last year.

Outlook: After underachieving in recent years, the Spartans may be the league's surprise. Still, Michigan State is longer on potential than proven production. If the Spartans can run and stop the run—look out.

SPARTANS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Plaxico Burress	6-6 229 Jr.	Lavaile Richardson	6-2 198 Jr.
T Tupe Peko	6-4 276 Jr.	Ulish Booker	6-6 268 So.
G Dave Sucura	6-3 286 Jr.	Paul Harker	6-3 288 So.
C Casey Jensen	6-7 294 Sr.	Josh Smith	6-3 272 So.
G Shaun Mason	6-5 275 Jr.	Matt Branson	6-2 270 So.
T Greg Robinson-Randall	6-5 312 Sr.	Matt Bonito	6-6 271 Jr.
TE Chris Baker	6-3 251 So.	Ivory McCoy	6-3 227 Jr.
WR Gari Scott	6-1 197 Sr.	Herb Haygood	6-0 180 So.
QB Bill Burke	6-5 200 Sr.	Ryan VanDyke	6-5 214 So.
RB Lloyd Clemons	5-11 211 Sr.	Little John Flowers	6-0 208 So.
FB Billy Greene	6-1 238 Sr.	*Dawan Moss	5-11 233 Fr.

DEFENSE

E Nick Myers	6-2 275 So.	Hubert Thompson	6-4 268 So.
T Jace Saylor	6-5 285 Jr.	Josh Shaw	6-3 275 So.
T Desmond Thomas	6-3 285 Sr.	Pete Govens	6-4 285 Jr.
E Robaire Smith	6-5 269 Sr.	Raheem Miller	6-2 243 Sr.
OLB Julian Peterson	6-4 235 Sr.	Mike Austin	6-3 234 Sr.
MLB T.J. Turner	6-2 241 Jr.	Mike Austin	6-3 234 Sr.
OLB Josh Thornhill	6-3 235 So.	Shawn Wright	6-2 230 Sr.
CB Cedric Henry	5-10 183 So.	DeMario Suggs	5-11 193 Jr.
SS Aric Morris	5-11 207 Sr.	Duron Bryan	6-0 191 So.
FS Richard Newsome	5-11 191 Jr.	Lorenzo Guess	6-1 188 So.
CB Renaldo Hill	5-11 170 Jr.	Donvetis Franklin	5-11 189 Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Paul Edinger	5-10 168 Sr.	P Craig Jarrett	6-2 208 So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

7 Minnesota

Site: Minneapolis
Coach: Glen Mason (8-15, 2 years; 67-79-1 overall, 13 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Loney (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: David Gibbs (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 5
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 41
Stadium: Metrodome (turf, 63,669)
Last league title won: 1967 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1986
1998 TSN rank: 56th
1998 record: 5-6; Big Ten: 2-6 (tie 7th)

1998 RESULTS

Arkansas State, W 17-14
 at Houston, W 14-7
 Memphis, W 41-14
 at Purdue, L 56-21
 Penn State, L 27-17
 at Ohio State, L 45-15
 Michigan State, W 19-18
 Michigan, L 15-10
 at Wisconsin, L 26-7
 at Indiana, L 20-19
 Iowa, W 49-7

SCHEDULE

S4—Ohio
 S11—Northeast Louisiana
 S18—Illinois State
 O2—at Northwestern
 O9—Wisconsin
 O16—at Illinois
 O23—Ohio State
 O30—Purdue
 N6—at Penn State
 N13—Indiana
 N20—at Iowa

NATIONAL RANK
38

Quarterbacks: Until scoring 49 points in the season finale against Iowa, the offense struggled in 1998. Minnesota quarterbacks threw 17 interceptions, tying for the most in the Big Ten, and completed a league-low 45.9 percent of their passes. Those numbers should improve. The improvement will

start with Billy Cockerham. The senior again may share time with junior Andy Persby. Persby is the better passer, while Cockerham's strength is his running ability. Cockerham is the starter for now, but keep an eye on true freshman Asad Abdul-Khaliq, a prep school prospect with big-time talent.

Running backs: Thomas Hamner, who has led the team in rushing each of the last three years, may get stiff competition from true freshman Thomas Tapeh. Throw in Byron Evans, a career 1,000-yard rusher, and Minnesota has a fine rotation. Coach Glen Mason wants to get physical, and 251-pound redshirt freshman Jason Andraschko can provide that at fullback.

Receivers: Ron Johnson set a school freshman record with 38 catches last year. He is good enough that teams can't focus on Luke Levenson, Minnesota's offensive MVP last season. An explosive player, Levenson works hard to get open, has good hands and is difficult to cover one-on-one. If Jermaine Mays can overcome eligibility woes, he may be a force. It's vital that the quarterbacks are able to get the ball to these guys. The tight end in this attack is a sixth lineman.

Offensive line: Mason is an advocate of smash-mouth football, so it's vital these guys be physical. Four of the five starters return, including Ben Hamilton, who ranks among the nation's best centers. He allowed just one sack and did not commit a penalty last year. Left guard Pat Hau, who began last season at right tackle, is back. Beefy Josh Rawlings is moving from defense to help at right tackle.

Defensive line: Two starters return for what is the defense's weakest unit. The Gophers made 38 sacks last season after getting 41 in 1997, but not enough came from the linemen. Opponents averaged 245 yards passing last season. Karon Riley, a transfer from Southern Methodist, might help.

Linebackers: All three starters return, headed by standout blitzers Sean Hoffman and Ben Mezera, who also excel in coverage. Curtese Poole, who started at end last year, returns to linebacker to further strengthen this unit.

Secondary: This is the strength of a defense that ranked fourth in the Big Ten against the run last year. The leader is strong safety Tyrone Carter, who ranked second in the Big Ten in tackles. Teams tried to pick on right corner Willie Middlebrooks in his freshman

year, but he held up well. The left corner will be Jimmy Wyrick, a starter in 1997 who missed last season because of a foot injury.

Special teams: Redshirt freshman kicker Preston Gruening is the leading candidate to replace Adam Bailey. Ryan Rindels, who averaged 38 yards last season, is an adequate punter. Levenson, who returned a punt for a TD last year, is dangerous, but teams can't avoid him because Antoine Henderson is a deadly option, too.

Schedule: Minnesota should get off to a strong start,



No guarantees: Hamner has led the Gophers in rushing three straight years, but he'll have to hold off challengers to keep the starting job.

playing host to Ohio, Northeast Louisiana and I-AA Illinois State for its first three games. The Gophers miss Michigan and Michigan State in the Big Ten this year, instead playing Northwestern and Illinois—an exchange any team gladly would make. There is a killer sequence against Ohio State, Purdue and Penn State.

Coaching: Mason has revived programs at Kent State and Kansas in part because he surrounds himself with talented people. Defensive coordinator David Gibbs is a bright, young coach who helped devise the aggressive scheme that has sparked a turnaround.

Outlook: Coming off its best season since a 6-5 record in 1990, Minnesota may reach a bowl for the first time since '86. Much depends on whether the Gophers get quality work at quarterback.

GOLDEN GOPHERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Luke Levenson	6-0 181 Sr.	Spencer Deltman	5-11 167 Sr.
T Adam Haayer	6-6 292 Jr.	Erik Larson	6-6 287 Jr.
G Pat Hau	6-6 323 Sr.	Derek Burns	6-5 278 So.
C Ben Hamilton	6-5 271 Jr.	Akeem Akinwale	6-3 269 So.
G Ryan Roth	6-3 299 So.	*Joe Palke	6-5 296 Fr.
T Josh Rawlings	6-5 319 Sr.	*Jake Kuppe	6-7 347 Fr.
TE Alex Hass	6-5 269 Sr.	Zach Vevea	6-6 256 So.
WR Ron Johnson	6-3 210 So.	Jermaine Mays	6-0 171 So.
QB Billy Cockerham	6-1 217 Sr.	Andy Persby	6-3 230 Jr.
RB Thomas Hamner	6-0 186 Sr.	Byron Evans	5-9 220 Sr.
FB Brad Prigge	5-10 193 Sr.	Marvin Spencer	6-1 232 Jr.

DEFENSE

E Jon Michals	6-4 269 Sr.	Mike Cemoch	6-6 272 Jr.
T Dylon Russ	6-1 304 Sr.	*Dave Sykora	6-6 312 Fr.
T John Schlecht	6-1 281 Jr.	Matt Anderle	6-6 309 So.
E Karon Riley	6-4 248 Jr.	Drew Dehnicke	6-3 255 So.
OLB Curtese Poole	6-3 243 Jr.	Justin Hall	6-3 239 Jr.
MLB Sean Hoffman	6-3 244 Jr.	Asten Osei	6-2 230 So.
OLB Ben Mezera	6-4 237 Jr.	Luke Braaten	6-4 241 So.
CB Trevis Graham	5-10 183 Jr.	Mike Lehan	6-1 190 Jr.
SS Tyrone Carter	5-9 184 Sr.	Jimmy Henry	6-1 192 Sr.
FS Jack Brewer	6-1 186 So.	Delvin Jones	6-0 184 So.
CB Willie Middlebrooks	6-2 194 So.	Clorenzo Griffin	5-10 183 Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K *Preston Gruening	5-10 183 Fr.	P Ryan Rindels	5-11 191 Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

8 Indiana

Site: Bloomington
Coach: Cam Cameron (6-16, 2 years)

Offensive coordinator:
 Cam Cameron (3rd season)

Defensive coordinator:
 Jon Heacock (3rd season)

Offensive scheme:
 Multiple

Defensive scheme:
 Multiple

Starters lost: 3

Stadium: Memorial (grass, 52,354)

Last league title won:
 1967 (tie)

Last bowl appearance:
 1993

1998 TSN rank: 64th

1998 record: 4-7; Big Ten:
 2-6 (tie 7th)

1998 RESULTS

Western Michigan, W 45-30
 at Kentucky, L 31-27
 at Cincinnati, W 48-14
 Wisconsin, L 24-20
 at Michigan St., L 38-31 (OT)
 Iowa, W 14-7
 at Michigan, L 21-10
 Ohio State, L 38-7
 at Illinois, L 31-16
 Minnesota, W 20-19
 at Purdue, L 52-7

SCHEDULE

S4—Ball State
 S11—North Carolina
 S18—Kentucky
 S25—at Penn State
 O2—Illinois
 O9—Northwestern
 O16—at Wisconsin
 O23—at Iowa
 O30—Michigan
 N13—at Minnesota
 N20—Purdue

NATIONAL
 RANK
 68

Quarterbacks: Unlike some coaches who won't even consider a platoon system, Cam Cameron may become an advocate of two-arms-are-better-than-one. Antwaan Randle El exploded on the scene as a redshirt freshman last year, displaying dynamic running skills and great athletic ability, but he's an

iffy passer. Big and strong redshirt freshman Tommy Jones, who impressed in the spring, may be the other half of the tandem. He's a much better passer than Randle El.

Running backs: Randle El may be used as a runner. Dangerous in the open field, he rushed for 873 yards while earning Big Ten freshman of the year honors. Frankie Franklin played well late last season despite a knee injury. There are several good options at fullback, including Jeremi Johnson, a 295-pound true freshman.

Receivers: If Randle El isn't in the backfield, he may be a receiver. Imagine him catching the ball and going one-on-one. This unit will take a big hit if Tyrone Browning isn't reinstated to the team following his suspension in the spring. If back, he will be the go-to guy. O.J. Conner is a rangy target. Craig Osika, who started at tight end as a true freshman, needs to develop his hands.

Offensive line: This entire unit returns, led by left tackle Pita Elisara. Fans know Elisara for the flowing mane of hair that protruded from the back of his helmet. Opponents know him as a crunching blocker. Big things are expected from Craig Robeen, the other tackle. Run blocking is a strength, but pass protection is a problem when facing big defenses. Depth is iffy; there is a big drop to the second team.

Defensive line: This is one of the Big Ten's best, led by end Adewale Ogunleye, who opted to return for his senior season. He and the rest of this unit lack size, but speed abounds. Tackle Damian Gregory, big and quick, was suspended in the spring and his status is uncertain. Tackle Jason Czap's motor is always running. Coaches are excited about redshirt freshmen Derek Barnett and Sean Nelson and junior college transfers James Atkins and Dominique Smith.

Linebackers: Expect some defensive backs to be moved and fill holes on this thin unit—the coaches are looking for as much speed as possible. Leading tackler Jabar Robinson will be hard to replace, but Devin Schaffer will try. He has bulked up to 237 pounds, plus he's quick and strong. Joslin Goodman will man the weak side. Brad Gecina figures in the mix.

Secondary: Greg Yeldell, a big-time leaper and budding talent, made five interceptions last season, tied for third in the conference. Free safety Mike McGrath has a nose for the ball. Strong safety Justin Smith is devel-

oping and may be moved to linebacker. Versatile Curtis Randle El, who suffered stab wounds in the spring, could be ready for the season. Keep an eye on safety Brandon Rodgers.

Special teams: Indiana is known for its fine kickers, a trend perpetuated by Andy Payne. He hit 10 of 12 field-goal attempts last year, including 4 of 5 from 40 or more yards. Too much ground is yielded in the punting game; inconsistent Drew Hagan averaged just 36.2 yards last season. Derin Graham is a dangerous return man.



Now you see him, now you don't: Coaches plan to use Randle El at a variety of positions to take advantage of his creative abilities.

Schedule: The Hoosiers play five of their first six games in Bloomington, including matches with North Carolina and Kentucky. Ohio State is absent from the Big Ten slate, but the Hoosiers travel to Penn State and Wisconsin.

Coaching: Cameron has a bright, innovative mind. He gets lots of help from assistant head coach Pete Schmidt, who handles the quarterbacks and has helped develop the attack ran by Antwaan Randle El.

Outlook: Cameron continues to add speedy talent, but much work remains on a defense ranked 10th overall and 11th against the pass last season. The Hoosiers gave up 22 TD passes, most in the Big Ten. Unless the defense is dramatically improved, it's unlikely that Indiana can gain its first bowl big since 1993 season.

HOOSIERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	O.J. Conner	6-2	176	Jr.	Terry Kramer	6-3	207	Sr.
T	Pita Elisara	6-5	295	Sr.	Doug Baumgarten	6-7	297	Sr.
G	Matt Snyder	6-3	280	Sr.	*Enoch DeMar	6-5	315	Fr.
C	Chad Miller	6-4	275	Sr.	James Evans	6-4	295	Jr.
G	James Broyles	6-5	306	Jr.	Nate DeArmond	6-3	291	So.
T	Craig Robeen	6-5	309	Sr.	Nick Abruzzo	6-6	279	Jr.
TE	Craig Osika	6-5	248	So.	*Bobby Brandt	6-7	250	Fr.
WR	Derin Graham	5-10	181	Jr.	Jerry Dorsey	6-0	175	Jr.
QB	Antwaan Randle El	5-10	177	So.	*Tommy Jones	6-4	235	Fr.
RB	Frankie Franklin	5-11	200	Sr.	Levron Williams	6-3	202	Jr.
FB	Jason Spear	5-11	235	Sr.	DeWayne Hogan	6-0	217	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Adewale Ogunleye	6-5	260	Sr.	*Sean Nelson	6-3	260	Fr.
T	Paul Mandina	6-4	266	Jr.	*A.C. Myler	6-4	334	Fr.
T	Jason Czap	6-3	260	Sr.	Gordon Bramel	6-4	258	Jr.
E	Kemp Rasmussen	6-3	255	So.	*Derek Barnett	6-4	255	Fr.
OLB	Tony Brown	6-2	240	Jr.	Joslin Goodman	6-3	220	Jr.
MLB	Devin Schaffer	6-1	237	So.	Pat Kraft	5-11	220	Sr.
OLB	Justin Smith	6-1	205	So.	Brad Gecina	6-2	230	Sr.
CB	Maurice Tucker	5-11	185	So.	Sharrod Wallace	5-8	176	So.
SS	Greg Yeldell	6-0	190	So.	Brandon Rodgers	6-3	215	So.
FS	Mike McGrath	5-11	195	Sr.	Curtis Randle El	5-10	185	Sr.
CB	O.J. Spencer	5-11	185	Jr.	Curtis Randle El	5-10	185	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Andy Payne	5-10	187	Jr.	P	Drew Hagan	5-10	190	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

Site: Iowa City**Coach:** Kirk Ferentz (first year; 12-21 overall, 3 years)**Offensive coordinator:** Ken O'Keefe (1st season)**Defensive coordinator:** Norm Parker (1st season)**Offensive scheme:** Multiple**Defensive scheme:** 4-3**Starters lost:** 9**Lettermen lost:** 17**Lettermen returning:** 48**Stadium:** Kinnick (grass, 70,397)**Last league title won:** 1990 (tie)**Last bowl appearance:** 1997**1998 TSN rank:** 77th**1998 record:** 3-8; Big Ten: 2-6 (tie 7th)**1998 RESULTS**

Central Michigan, W 38-0

Iowa State, L 27-9

at Arizona, L 35-11

at Illinois, W 37-14

Michigan, L 12-9

Northwestern, W 26-24

at Indiana, L 14-7

Wisconsin, L 31-0

at Purdue, L 36-14

Ohio State, L 45-14

at Minnesota, L 49-7

SCHEDULE

S4—Nebraska

S11—at Iowa State

S18—Northern Illinois

O2—at Michigan State

O9—Penn State

O16—at Northwestern

O23—Indiana

O30—at Ohio State

N6—Illinois

N13—at Wisconsin

N20—Minnesota

Quarterbacks: New coach Kirk Ferentz has three holdovers to choose from: Randy Reiners, Scott Mullen and Kyle McCann. Each started at least two games last season, and each battled injury. Reiners is the top runner, McCann is the best passer, and Mullen does both well. Since Ferentz wants to throw more,

look for McCann to be the man. Chuck Long, one of two assistants retained from Hayden Fry's staff, will implement more three- and five-step drops for what was the league's worst offense last year.

Running backs: Ladell Betts rushed for just 679 yards last season as a freshman, but he was hampered by poor line play. Ferentz will take a long look at Robbie Crockett and redshirt freshman Siaka Massaquoi. Betts, who has the speed to get to the corner and is a good pass-catcher, should be able to keep his job. Veteran Rob Thein is expected to start at full-back.

Receivers: Bashir Yamini and Kahlil Hill are game-breakers who should benefit from the quick-strike passing game. Chris Oliver may blossom. The key could be tight ends Austin Wheatley and Zeron Flemister, who must do more than just block in the new scheme if the Hawkeyes want to increase the six touchdown receptions they had last season.

Offensive line: The quick-passing game will help mask a weak unit that was responsible for Iowa ranking last in the Big Ten in rushing last season and averaging just 2.2 yards a carry. Ferentz, who coached the offensive line at Iowa from 1981-89, faces a major rebuilding effort. Even with the short drops, Iowa needs pass protection. Tackle Ben Sobieski is among the team's best blockers, but he may miss the year recovering from shoulder surgery. Alonzo Cunningham is the other tackle, while standout Chad Deal has moved from guard to center.

Defensive line: Iowa couldn't run or stop the run last year, ranking last in the Big Ten in both categories. New coordinator Norm Parker wasted no time trying to compensate for the loss of three starters, including tackle Jared DeVries. Ends are out in the new scheme, which will feature three linemen flanked by two outside linebackers—mostly to take advantage of the team's speed. Tackle Ed Saidat is formidable.

Linebackers: Even with Matt Hughes gone, this is a strong unit. Aaron Kampman lived up to his hype last season, emerging as a playmaker as a true freshman. Vernon Rollins may not be able to provide support if his injured knee isn't healed. Look for Travis Senters or junior college transfer Derrick Davison to start opposite Kampman. Ryan Loftin and Anthony Herron, a rising star, are the top outside linebackers.

Secondary: Eric Thigpen's departure left a big hole at free safety. Cornerback Tarig Holman, who made a team-best 10 pass breakups last season, and strong safety Matt Bowen, Iowa's top tackler last year, are a talented duo. Joe Slattery is a veteran presence.

Special teams: Among the best in the league. With Zach Bromert gone, Tim Douglas takes over the full-time duties after serving as the long kicker last year. He tied an NCAA record in '98 by kicking three field goals from more than 50 yards in the same game.

Punter Jason Baker is consistent. Hill, one of the Big



PAUL NISELY / TSN

Expanded role: Look for Hill to emerge as a game-breaker in a new Hawkeyes attack that will feature a quick-strike passing game.

Ten's best return men, ran back a kickoff and a punt for a touchdown in the same game last year.

Schedule: Playing host to Nebraska is no way for Ferentz to debut. Iowa doesn't play back-to-back at home or the road. The Hawkeyes don't face Michigan or Purdue. There are trips to Wisconsin and Ohio State, and a home date with Penn State.

Coaching: Ferentz, an assistant with the Baltimore Ravens for the past six years, is like Fry in many ways, including the cloak-and-dagger way in which he carries himself. But after 20 years of Fry, some things are changing, like the passing game.

Outlook: A poor offensive line and an iffy quarterback situation guarantee a second straight losing season for the Hawkeyes. But there is enough young talent to offer hope for the future.

HAWKEYES DEPTH CHART**OFFENSE**

WR	Bashir Yamini	6-4	190	Sr.	Ryan Barton	6-1	184	Jr.
T	Alonzo Cunningham	6-4	283	So.	Matt Rogers	6-5	275	Sr.
G	Jay Bickford	6-4	283	Sr.	*B.J. Van Briesen	6-3	300	Fr.
C	Chad Deal	6-5	285	Sr.	A.J. Blazek	6-1	276	Jr.
G	*Bruce Nelson	6-5	210	Fr.	Kyle Trippier	6-5	260	Jr.
T	David Porter	6-8	290	So.	*Andy Lightfoot	6-7	275	Fr.
TE	Zeron Flemister	6-5	240	Sr.	Austin Wheatley	6-5	250	Sr.
WR	Kevin Kasper	6-1	190	Jr.	Chris Oliver	6-2	194	So.
QB	Randy Reiners	6-3	200	Sr.	Kyle McCann	6-5	190	So.
TB	Ladell Betts	5-11	204	So.	Robbie Crockett	6-0	202	So.
FB	Rob Thein	6-0	230	Sr.	Jeremy Allen	6-1	233	So.

DEFENSE

E	Anthony Herron	6-5	270	So.	Cody O'Hare	6-4	270	So.
T	Jerry Montgomery	6-3	290	So.	Skip Miller	6-4	260	Jr.
T	Corey Brown	6-2	286	Sr.	Cory Bern	6-3	311	Jr.
E	Ed Saidat	6-7	271	Sr.	Scott Pospisil	6-4	260	Sr.
OLB	LaVar Woods	6-3	250	Jr.	Ryan Loftin	6-4	245	Sr.
ILB	Aaron Kampman	6-4	235	So.	Roger Meyer	6-3	255	So.
ILB	Derrick Davison	6-1	237	Jr.	Travis Senters	6-3	230	Sr.
CB	Joe Slattery	6-0	187	Sr.	D.J. Johnson	5-11	180	So.
SS	Matt Bowen	6-3	196	Sr.	*Derek Pagel	6-2	185	Fr.
FS	Matt Stockdale	5-11	186	So.	Shane Hall	6-0	195	So.
CB	Tarig Holman	6-0	195	Sr.	Mikkell Brown	5-10	187	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Tim Douglas	5-11	195	Sr.	P	Jason Baker	6-1	195	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

10 Illinois

Site: Champaign
Coach: Ron Turner (3-19, 2 years; 10-23 overall, 3 years)

Offensive coordinator: Ron Turner (3rd season)

Defensive coordinator: Tim Kish (3rd season)

Offensive scheme: Pro set

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 6

Lettermen lost: 12

Lettermen returning: 41

Stadium: Memorial (turf, 70,904)

Last league title won: 1990 (tie)

Last bowl appearance: 1994

1998 TSN rank: 89th

1998 record: 3-8; Big Ten: 2-6 (tie 7th)

1998 RESULTS

at Washington St., L 20-13

Middle Tenn. St., W 48-20

Louisville, L 35-9

Iowa, L 37-14

at Northwestern, W 13-10

Ohio State, L 41-0

Wisconsin, L 37-3

at Purdue, L 42-9

at Penn State, L 27-0

Indiana, W 31-16

at Michigan State, L 41-9

SCHEDULE

S4—Arkansas State

S11—San Diego State

S18—at Louisville

S25—Michigan State

O2—at Indiana

O16—Minnesota

O23—at Michigan

O30—Penn State

N6—at Iowa

N13—at Ohio State

N20—Northwestern

NATIONAL
RANK
78

Quarterbacks: Kirk Johnson started the final three games of 1998 but figures to lose the job to sophomore Kurt Kittner, who started five games but lost the job because of fumbling problems. Kittner has the better arm—plus he now has a year of experience. Neither will wow with talent, but coach Ron

Turner wants consistency, which he didn't get in the spring. If the veterans struggle, redshirt freshman Walter Young, a lefthander, could get a chance. The Illini threw just three touchdown passes last season.

Running backs: Steve Havard hits the hole hard and will see the bulk of the work, but don't discount Rocky Harvey, who impressed as a true freshman. Turner will use Harvey as a slotback because of his good hands and shiftiness. The mighty mite will flare out and catch passes, adding another dimension to an anemic attack. Keep an eye on Antoine Harris, an academic casualty last year who arrived with big credentials.

Receivers: This has been a dead zone for the Illini. Last year Turner went for the quick fix, signing four junior college receivers. Only one—Terrance Smalls—remains on the team. Smalls and Lenny Willis are 5-7 and 5-9, respectively. Turner desperately needs a big-play guy, which could be redshirt freshman Aaron Moorehead. Athletic Michael Dean also figures in. Josh Whitman and Brian Hodges are good tight ends whose roles figure to increase.

Offensive line: Three starters are gone, but the unit may be better. That's less a knock on the three departed players, who lacked athleticism, than it is a compliment for the new players. Led by center Luke Butkus, nephew of Dick, the unit will take time to gel. Turner is pleased with the group's run-blocking. Tackle Marques Sullivan is a rising star.

Defensive line: The weakest part of a weak defense. Three of the four starters return, but they're not any bigger than last year, when large lines dominated the Illini. Plus, there isn't a pass rusher. Ends Rameel Connor and Jason Eberhart, a gifted athlete, must emerge. Tackle Mike McGee must be a run-stuffer.

Linebackers: The Illini need to be more physical against the run. If true freshman Phil Macklin is as good as expected, Turner may have a pass rusher. If Macklin isn't ready or eligible, this still is a good unit. Danny Clark and Robert Franklin are solid players, and the coaches are looking for more from Michael Young. The return of Eric Guenther, who received an extra year of eligibility, is a bonus.

Secondary: This unit received a crushing blow in the spring when Bobby Jackson suffered a knee injury that may force him to miss the season. Asim Pleas has moved from cornerback to fill Jackson's strong safety

spot. Tony Francis and Johnny Rogers will man the corners, with Muhammad Abdullah at free safety. If freshman Marc Jackson, brother of Bobby, fulfills his billing as a hard-hitting free safety with good instincts, Illinois shouldn't rank last again in the Big Ten in scoring defense (29.6 points a game). Depth is iffy.

Special teams: This may be the most solid and stable unit on the team. Harvey is an elusive return man. Punter Steve Fitts averaged 41.4 yards last year. Neil Rackers is a steady kicker, but he needs more chances. His combined 26 field-goal and extra-point attempts



Soft D: Despite a heroic effort from team MVP Clark, the Illini defense still yielded a whopping 370 yards a game last season.

last year were 15 fewer than any other Big Ten kicker.

Schedule: The non-conference slate is a good fit for a rebuilding program—Arkansas State, San Diego State and Louisville are on the menu. But the Big Ten lineup is a bear. Illinois must travel to Michigan and Ohio State. At least there is no Wisconsin or Purdue.

Coaching: Robert Jackson, the father of Bobby and Marc, was hired from Oregon State to coach receivers. Chris Green, who was at Kent last year, will handle the defensive backs.

Outlook: The Illini, last in the Big Ten in turnover margin in '98 (minus 11), aren't ready for prime time, but the Saturday morning cartoon act is over. Illinois ended a 19-game losing streak last year. Growing pains will continue, but the talent level is nearing Big Ten standards.

FIGHTING ILLINI DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	*Greg Lewis	6-0	180	Fr.	*Aaron Moorehead	6-3	192	Fr.
T	Marques Sullivan	6-5	330	Jr.	Dan Cutter	6-7	310	So.
G	Jay Kulaga	6-5	325	So.	Aaron Hodges	6-5	270	Fr.
C	Luke Butkus	6-4	280	So.	Brian Scott	6-1	290	Sr.
G	Ray Redziniak	6-3	295	Jr.	*David Diehl	6-5	295	Fr.
T	Chip Nicastro	6-6	300	Sr.	*Tony Pashos	6-6	320	Fr.
TE	Josh Whitman	6-4	250	Jr.	Brian Hodges	6-4	255	So.
WR	Lenny Willis	5-9	180	Sr.	Dwayne Smith	6-2	175	Fr.
QB	Kirk Johnson	6-3	200	Sr.	Kurt Kittner	6-3	205	So.
RB	Steve Havard	5-10	210	Sr.	Rocky Harvey	5-9	170	So.
FB	Elmer Hickman	6-1	223	Sr.	Chris Hoffman	6-2	227	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Rameel Connor	6-3	280	Sr.	Jason Eberhart	6-3	260	Jr.
T	Brandon Moore	6-3	260	So.	Matt Carlton	6-6	330	Sr.
T	Mike McGee	6-3	270	Sr.	Seth Tesdall	6-3	269	Sr.
E	Fred Wakefield	6-7	262	Jr.	*Tim McGill	6-3	265	Fr.
OLB	Danny Clark	6-2	229	Sr.	Mon Long	6-2	207	Jr.
MLB	Eric Guenther	6-2	235	Sr.	Robert Franklin	6-2	243	Jr.
OLB	Michael Young	6-2	229	Jr.	Eric Garrett	6-2	237	Jr.
CB	Tony Francis	6-2	200	Sr.	Anthony Hurd	5-10	177	So.
SS	Asim Pleas	5-10	180	Sr.	*Carlos Lattimore	6-1	222	Fr.
FS	Muhammad Abdullah	6-1	190	So.	Thomas Robinson	6-0	170	So.
CB	Johnny Rogers	5-9	170	Sr.	Johnnie Harris	5-11	190	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Neil Rackers	6-0	195	Sr.	P	Steve Fitts	6-0	180	So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

11 Northwestern

Site: Evanston, Ill.

Coach: Randy Walker (first year; 59-35-5 overall, 9 years)

Offensive coordinator: Kevin Wilson (1st season)

Defensive coordinator: Jerry Brown (3rd season)

Offensive scheme: Multiple I

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 11

Lettermen lost: 22

Lettermen returning: 39

Stadium: Ryan Field

(Grass, 47,130)

Last league title won: 1996 (tie)

Last bowl appearance: 1996

1998 TSN rank: 73rd

1998 record: 3-9; Big Ten: 0-8 (11th)

NATIONAL RANK
86

Quarterbacks: For the first time in three years, the Wildcats have a returning starter. Gavin Hoffman should solidify the position for a while. The big sophomore should get better as he learns to put touch on the ball and becomes better at reading defenses. He will accomplish those things a lot quicker if the

line protects him better than it did last year.

Running backs: The Wildcats averaged only 2.5 yards per rush last season, and a top priority for new coach Randy Walker is establishing the run. Damien Anderson, who has speed and cutback ability, is the top option. Sam Simmons, who did a splendid job returning kicks last season as a true freshman, will push Anderson for playing time. Brian Marshall adds to what is a deep corps of runners.

Receivers: There were times last year when D'Wayne Bates lined up inside, outside, in the back-field and under center. He was the Wildcats' only game-breaking receiver, and now he's gone. What's left? A bunch of possession receivers who combined to catch 11 passes last year. Tight end is in better shape. Jay Tant, who ranked second on the team in receptions (30) last year, is back. So is John Cerasani, who missed last season because of an injury.

Offensive line: Brian Hemmerle is one tough player. The left guard played in the last seven games of the 1998 season despite a torn ACL, but his availability is iffy due to his knee. Starting center Ty Garner and right tackle Ryan Friedrich missed games because of injury—a major reason why the Wildcats went winless in the Big Ten. Six returning linemen got playing time last year. If anything, this crew will be experienced.

Defensive line: Tackle Jeff Dyra will anchor a line that also includes end Dwayne Missouri and tackle Darryl Hodge. Salem Simon will be at the other end. This group needs to put pressure on the quarterback. Northwestern linemen had just 10 sacks last season.

Linebackers: Barry Gardner and his 2,000 tackles—or so it seemed—are gone. His replacement is Conrad Emmerich, a great mix of speed and strength. Walker is implementing an attack defense, which means Emmerich and Co. should be busy. No more read-and-react, as espoused by Gary Barnett; the Wildcats will be more aggressive and assertive.

Secondary: Bottom line: This unit needs to curtail the big-gainers. The Wildcats gave up 13.8 yards per reception last season. Worse, they weren't opportunistic. No player ranked in the conference's top 10 in interceptions or pass breakups. Strong safety Mycal Jones and cornerback Harold Blackmon are the top players in the secondary.

Special teams: With an offense that may struggle to score, finding a replacement for kicker Brian Gowins, who made 17 of 24 field-goal attempts last year, is a priority. Simmons led the Big Ten in kickoff returns, averaging 27.6 yards. He's a big-play guy who will get a lot of return opportunities unless the Wildcats improve drastically.

Schedule: It's not brutal, but it is harsh for a young team. Miami (Ohio) and Texas Christian are dangerous non-conference opponents. Miami, the only team to beat Northwestern's 1995 Rose Bowl team, should



Power game: Marshall is part of a deep group of backs that can help Northwestern establish a strong running game.

have extra incentive, considering that Walker bolted the RedHawks to replace Barnett. Trips to Purdue and Michigan are daunting, as is a visit from Wisconsin. Northwestern doesn't play Penn State and Ohio State.

Coaching: The 44-year-old Walker is a no-nonsense guy; he demands hustle and determination. He is back at Northwestern, where he coached running backs in 1988 and '89.

Outlook: After winning Big Ten titles in 1995 and '96, Northwestern reverted to its old, inept self the past two seasons. Maintaining a top-shelf football program at a school that prefers scholars proved to be too daunting a task for Barnett, who has bolted to Colorado. Any hope of escaping the Big Ten cellar this season is dependent on developing a ground game and solidifying the defense.

1998 RESULTS

UNLV, W 41-7
Duke, L 44-10
at Rice, W 23-14
at Wisconsin, L 38-7
Illinois, L 13-10
at Iowa, L 26-24
Michigan, L 12-6
Ohio State, L 36-10
at Michigan State, L 29-5
Purdue, L 56-21
at Penn State, L 41-10
at Hawaii, W 47-21

SCHEDULE

S4—Miami (Ohio)
S11—Texas Christian
S18—at Duke
S25—at Purdue
O2—Minnesota
O9—at Indiana
O16—Iowa
O30—Wisconsin
N6—at Michigan
N13—Michigan State
N20—at Illinois

WILDCATS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Aaron Burrell	6-1	206	Sr.	Phil Miller	6-5	207	Sr.
T Mike Souza	6-6	285	Jr.	Leon Brockmeier	6-7	282	Jr.
G Jon Walters	6-5	275	So.	Jack Harnedy	6-7	297	Sr.
C Wayne Lucier	6-4	279	So.	Ty Garner	6-3	301	Sr.
G Lance Clelland	6-5	301	Jr.	Mark Perry	6-4	274	Sr.
T Blake Henry	6-6	283	So.	Ryan Friedrich	6-8	311	Sr.
TE Jay Tant	6-3	254	Sr.	John Cerasani	6-4	271	Sr.
WR Teddy Johnson	5-11	184	Jr.	Rob Johnson	6-2	212	Jr.
QB Gavin Hoffman	6-5	237	Jr.	Nick Kreinbrink	6-2	219	Jr.
RB Damien Anderson	5-10	198	Jr.	Sam Simmons	5-10	202	So.
FB Ian Miller	5-10	237	Sr.	Chris Stiernagle	6-2	216	So.

DEFENSE

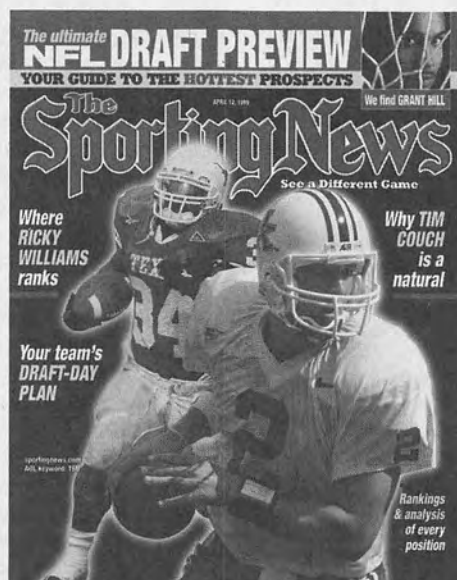
E Dwayne Missouri	6-5	252	Sr.	Pete Konopka	6-4	243	Jr.
T Darryl Hodge	6-3	281	Sr.	Javiar Collins	6-6	305	Sr.
T Jeff Dyra	6-4	290	Sr.	Gladston Taylor	6-5	263	Sr.
E Salem Simon	6-4	257	Jr.	Andrew Wimsatt	6-3	237	So.
OLB Kevin Bentley	6-1	226	So.	Preston Letts	6-2	240	Sr.
MLB Conrad Emmerich	6-5	255	Sr.	Chris Jones	6-2	241	So.
OLB Napoleon Harris	6-3	230	Jr.	Billy Silva	6-3	229	So.
CB Harold Blackmon	6-0	197	Sr.	Chasda Martin	5-11	194	So.
SS Mycal Jones	5-11	204	Jr.	Marvin Brown	5-10	197	Jr.
FS Rashad Morton	5-11	213	Sr.	Kyle Sanders	5-10	206	Sr.
CB Shegun Cummings	5-11	196	Jr.	Gerald Conway	6-0	173	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Tim Long	6-1	195	Sr.	P J.J. Standing	6-0	202	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

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BIG TEN

1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING (RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD)

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, Sr.	10	268	1,279	4.8	11	127.9
2. Michael Wiley, Ohio State, Sr.	11	182	1,147	6.3	10	104.3
3. Sedrick Irvin, Michigan State	12	272	1,167	4.3	10	97.3
4. Antwaan Randle El, Indiana, So.	11	227	873	3.8	10	79.4
5. Thomas Hamner, Minnesota, Sr.	11	209	838	4.0	4	76.2
6. Eric McCoo, Penn State, So.	11	127	822	6.5	3	74.7
7. Anthony Thomas, Michigan, Jr.	11	146	761	5.2	12	69.2
8. Ladell Betts, Iowa, So.	11	188	679	3.6	5	61.7
9. Joe Montgomery, Ohio State	11	109	670	6.1	6	60.9
10. J Crabtree, Purdue, Sr.	10	140	602	4.3	2	60.2

PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Joe Germaine, Ohio State	11	346	209	.604	7	3,108	9.0	24
2. Drew Brees, Purdue, Jr.	12	516	336	.651	17	3,753	7.3	36
3. Tom Brady, Michigan, Sr.	12	323	200	.619	10	2,427	7.5	14
4. Bill Burke, Michigan State, Sr.	12	358	195	.545	10	2,595	7.3	19
5. Kevin Thompson, Penn State, Sr.	11	226	121	.535	8	1,691	7.5	6
6. Gavin Hoffman, Northwestern, Jr.	12	323	176	.545	14	2,199	6.8	13
7. Mike Samuel, Wisconsin	11	155	81	.523	4	1,021	6.6	6
8. Billy Cockerham, Minnesota, Sr.	11	180	92	.511	12	1,150	6.4	11
9. Antwaan Randle El, Indiana, So.	11	273	127	.465	11	1,745	6.4	6
10. Ryan Van Dyke, Mich. St. So.	9	63	33	.524	4	353	5.6	2

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. D'Wayne Bates, Northwestern	12	83	1,245	9	6.9	15.0
2. David Boston, Ohio State	11	74	1,330	13	6.7	18.0
3. Isaac Jones, Purdue	12	72	801	5	6.0	11.1
4. Luke Levenson, Minnesota, Sr.	11	60	854	9	5.5	14.2
5. Plaxico Burress, Michigan State, Jr.	12	65	1,013	8	5.4	15.6
6. Randall Lane, Purdue, Sr.	12	64	915	7	5.3	14.3
7. Dee Miller, Ohio State	11	58	887	3	5.3	15.3
8. Tai Streets, Michigan	12	60	906	11	5.0	15.1
9. Gari Scott, Michigan State, Sr.	12	58	843	4	4.8	14.5
10. Gabe Cox, Purdue	12	55	647	8	4.6	11.8

1998 TEAM STATS

OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Wisconsin (20)	204.3	1. Purdue (7)	331.5	1. Ohio State (6)	503.6
2. Ohio State (25)	198.6	2. Ohio State (12)	304.9	2. Purdue (16)	457.0
3. Indiana (28)	195.5	3. Michigan State (30)	246.2	3. Michigan (46)	376.4
4. Penn State (30)	187.9	4. Michigan (40)	225.1	4. Michigan State (47)	375.5
5. Michigan (57)	151.3	5. Northwestern (67)	202.3	5. Indiana (60)	363.9
6. Illinois (69)	142.5	6. Iowa (75)	185.9	6. Penn State (63)	356.9
7. Minnesota (72)	140.6	7. Minnesota (80)	171.1	7. Wisconsin (89)	314.2
8. Michigan State (80)	129.3	8. Penn State (83)	169.0	8. Minnesota (92)	311.7
9. Purdue (84)	125.5	9. Indiana (84)	168.5	9. Northwestern (99)	295.5
10. Northwestern (104)	93.3	10. Illinois (92)	145.4	10. Illinois (103)	287.9
11. Iowa (109)	80.9	11. Wisconsin (107)	109.9	11. Iowa (109)	266.8

DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASS EFFICIENCY		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	Points	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Ohio State (1)	67.4	1. Ohio State (2)	87.4	1. Ohio State (2)	257.7
2. Wisconsin (3)	89.6	2. Wisconsin (6)	97.7	2. Wisconsin (4)	270.3
3. Penn State (8)	97.3	3. Penn State (8)	101.1	3. Penn State (12)	294.5
4. Minnesota (13)	103.7	4. Michigan State (10)	101.6	4. Michigan (15)	299.3
5. Michigan (23)	122.3	5. Michigan (23)	108.0	5. Purdue (38)	343.3
6. Indiana (50)	147.7	6. Purdue (48)	116.6	6. Minnesota (47)	349.1
7. Purdue (52)	148.7	7. Illinois (50)	118.1	7. Michigan State (55)	363.3
8. Illinois (56)	153.5	8. Minnesota (59)	121.7	8. Northwestern (60)	369.2
9. Northwestern (65)	162.5	9. Northwestern (64)	123.6	9. Illinois (61)	370.4
10. Michigan State (77)	171.8	10. Iowa (69)	126.9	10. Indiana (75)	390.7
11. Iowa (90)	187.3	11. Indiana (82)	132.7	11. Iowa (84)	398.9

RECRUITING

1. OHIO STATE: Offensive lineman Bryce Bishop could have gone anywhere. The Buckeyes locked up the top recruits in Ohio, including running back Kelton Lindsay and defensive backs Curtis Crosby and Michael Doss. Richard McNutt and Ziyier Walker are other defensive backs to watch. Maurice Harris, Ricky Bryant and Maurice Lee are exciting wideouts. Defensive lineman Tim Anderson is highly regarded.

2. MICHIGAN: Lloyd Carr nabbed star wideouts Tyrece Butler and Ronald Bellamy. Tony Pape and Demetrious Solomon are big-time blockers. Six running backs are in the class, including B.J. Askew, Ryan Beard, Brent Cummings, Charles Drake and Fred Russell. Defensive linemen Norman Boebert, Grant Bowman and Dave Pearson are highly regarded. Defensive back Jeremy LeSueur may play this fall.

3. MICHIGAN STATE: Linebacker T.J. Duckett has superstar written all over him. The offensive line will be fortified by Brian Ottney, DeMarco Monroe and Joseph Patrick. Offensive lineman Tupe Peko, defensive linemen Jabari Hendricks and Dimitry Bernard, defensive back Drew Young and linebacker Kendall Daniels are junior college transfers who will help immediately. Ellington Wills, Derek Stielstra and Kyle Rasmussen are heralded prep defensive linemen.

4. ILLINOIS: Linebacker Phil Macklin may start this fall, if he's eligible. Athletic Christian Morton is the quarterback of the future. Marc Jackson and Brandon Lloyd are stellar defensive backs. Defensive end Shaheed Richardson and offensive linemen Aaron Hodges, Sean Bubin, Chris Rucks and Jim Ferguson are heralded recruits. Wideouts Eric McGoe and Dwayne Smith were needed additions.

5. PENN STATE: Joe Paterno missed out on a quarterback in this small class, but he nabbed stellar wideouts Bryant Johnson and Yaacov Yisreal. Bryan Scott and Deryck Toles are intriguing athletes, while Dave Costlow is a good-looking defensive end. Running back Horace Dodd, linebacker Gino Capone and offensive lineman Damone Jones have promise. Running back Ricky Upton is a sleeper.

6. WISCONSIN: The Badgers are set at quarterback with Jim Sorgi and Scott Wille, who can pass to wideouts Lee Evans and Lance Young. B.J. Tucker and Stephon Watson are speedy defensive backs. Travis Jack and Jeff Mack are hard-hitting linebackers. Byron Brown could play several positions. Five running backs were signed.

7. PURDUE: Wide receivers Larry Shyne and Keith Dawson and defensive end Akin Ayodele are junior college transfers who can help immediately. The Boilermakers stocked up on linebackers with Tim Olmstead, Daniel Giles and Landon Johnson. Nick Mangosing and Shaun Phillips are promising tight ends. Defensive ends Vedron Dzulovick and Craig Terrill bring with potential.

8. MINNESOTA: Everyone wanted running back Thomas Tapeh. Defensive end Maurice White and offensive lineman Matt McIntosh have coaches excited. Junior college transfer linebacker Tevita Moala may help now. Defensive lineman Chris Smith and athletic quarterback Asad Abdul-Khalik re-signed after attending prep schools.

9. INDIANA: Six junior college transfers will help. The star signees are linebacker Robert Brown, running back Brian Lewis and defensive back Clarence Young. Joe Gonzalez and Michael Hanley are touted defensive backs. Linebackers Kris Dielman and Darvin Nunn have bright futures, as does running back Duane Stone.

10. NORTHWESTERN: The coaching change hurt. The Wildcats are excited about running backs Louis Ayeni and Chris Brown, linebackers Vince Cartaya and Regis Eller and defensive linemen Gabe Nyenhuis and George Woods. Eller is the son of former NFL great Carl Eller.

11. IOWA: New coach Kirk Ferentz didn't have much time. Quarterback Jon Beutjer hails from Chuck Long's hometown. Jory Helms and Erik Jensen are beefy linebackers, and defensive lineman Kory Borchers shows fine potential. Offensive linemen Nick Rahfaldt and Adam Densmore could become solid contributors.

SCOUTING

Big Ten

Since Notre Dame declined an invitation to join the Big Ten, look for the league to continue its search for a 12th member. Missouri, perhaps? The chance to split into two divisions and play a conference title game is a lucrative attraction for schools that continue to look for revenue sources.

The divisions could look like this: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri and Michigan State in the North; Penn State, Ohio State, Indiana, Purdue, Northwestern and Illinois in the South.

Ascending: Purdue. Everybody laughed when coach Joe Tiller talked about using four- and five-receiver sets upon arriving in the black-and-blue Big Ten in 1997. Tiller has had the last laugh, posting consecutive nine-win seasons and Alamo Bowl victories. And prospects look good for 1999.

Descending: When Hayden Fry arrived in Iowa City in 1979, the program was in shambles. The team he left Kirk Ferentz is on shaky ground. Since sharing the league title in 1990, the Hawkeyes have had a winning Big Ten record just twice (1991 and '96). Iowa may not have hit its nadir

Badgers always seem to dodge a Big Ten heavy, and this year it's Penn State. Michigan visits Mad Town; the only road land mines are at Ohio State and Purdue.

Best matchup: Michigan at Penn State, November 13. Assuming the Nittany Lions survive a visit from Ohio State and a trip to Purdue, this battle of stellar defenses should be for all the Big Ten marbles.

Worst matchup: Iowa at Northwestern, October 16. The Hawkeyes are in a tail-spin, and it seems longer than two years since the Wildcats won back-to-back Big Ten titles. First team that scores 10 is the winner.

Bowl bound: Penn State, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio State, Purdue and Michigan State.

Biggest shoes to fill: Ohio State quarterback Joe

Germaine didn't look like much in a uniform, but he was a savvy leader and set 11 school passing records. Athletic lefty Steve Bellisari and strong-armed Austin Moherman, both sophomores, will battle to be the starter.

Most overrated player: It was tailback-by-committee in Ann Arbor last year, which explains why Anthony Thomas was limited to 761 rushing yards. But it was tailback-by-committee because Thomas often failed to deliver. With Michigan's backfield depth thinner because Justin Fargas is out for the season, Thomas needs to deliver.

Most underrated player: While he often is knocked because he stands just 5-9, Penn State cornerback David Macklin is an excellent cover man who often gets overlooked on a star-studded defense.

Best coach: Cam Cameron, Indiana. Don't look at the record (6-16 in two years)—the talent level still isn't up to Big Ten standards. Instead, look at the innovative changes he's making on offense. Coaches flocked to Bloomington in the spring to study (and copy) Cameron's innovations.

Best staff: Ohio State. Few staffs overcome talent losses like John Cooper's. He lost three NFL first-round picks after the 1995 season, yet the Buckeyes went 11-1 in '96. Eight players from that '96 team, including three first-round picks, were drafted, but the Buckeyes won 10 games in '97. Cooper won 11 games with veterans last year, and now is faced with replacing three first-round picks this season.

Coach on the hot seat: Nick Saban, Michigan State. The Spartans have gone 6-5-1, 6-6, 7-5 and 6-6 under Saban. His cause has been hampered by a constantly changing staff. With the array of talent



Get in gear: Thomas' failure to emerge was the main reason Michigan was forced to use a tailback-by-committee system last season.

that is assembled each year in East Lansing, it's time to deliver.

Odds and ends: Wisconsin's Ron Dayne needs 499 yards to break Archie Griffin's Big Ten career record of 5,589 rushing yards. With 4,563 yards, Dayne needs 1,717 yards to break Ricky Williams' NCAA Division I-A mark of 6,279 yards. ... Michigan coach Lloyd Carr was not pleased when Notre Dame agreed to play host to Kansas in the Eddie Robinson Classic August 28, giving the Irish not only a game before playing in Ann Arbor September 4, but a chance to start practice earlier. ... Joe Paterno is celebrating his 50th year at Penn State, 34th as the head coach. ... Minnesota hasn't had a winning record since going 6-5 in 1990, giving the Gophers a Big Ten-high eight consecutive losing seasons. With Michigan and Michigan State off the schedule, Illinois and Northwestern on it—along with seven home games—Minnesota should end its futile run. ... The duel between Indiana quarterback Antwaan Randle El and North Carolina passer Ronald Curry on September 11 will be exciting, but a one-on-one hoop matchup between the high school basketball stars would be even better. ... Randy Walker will make his debut as Northwestern coach September 4 against Miami (Ohio), his former employer. ... Iowa took its lumps last year, going 3-8, but the future may be promising. Kyle McCann last season became the first freshman to lead the Hawkeyes in passing since 1982, Ladell Betts became the first freshman to lead the team in rushing, and Kahlil Hill became the first freshman to lead the team in receiving. ... Look for some substantial rushing and passing numbers this season—14 of the league's top 17 rushers are back, and 10 of the top 13 quarterbacks return. —Rich Thomaselli

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBs	DBs		
ILLINOIS	11	11	11	10	5	8	11	9
INDIANA	7	6	5	7	9	7	3	7
IOWA	8	10	7	11	7	10	5	11
MICHIGAN	2	4	8	3	3	3	6	4
MICHIGAN ST.	9	8	1	5	4	6	2	8
MINNESOTA	6	7	3	8	8	4	9	6
NORTHWESTERN	10	9	10	6	11	11	10	10
OHIO STATE	5	2	4	1	6	5	8	2
PENN STATE	3	1	6	4	1	1	1	1
PURDUE	1	5	2	9	10	9	4	3
WISCONSIN	4	3	9	2	2	2	7	5

with last year's 3-8 mark, the school's worst record in 20 seasons.

Nightmare schedule: Ohio State will break in a new quarterback against Miami (Fla.) in the Kickoff Classic. The Buckeyes then play host to UCLA in the first of five straight home games that include visits from Wisconsin and Purdue. Trips to Penn State, Michigan State and Michigan could spell trouble.

Dream schedule: Like Ohio State, Wisconsin has to break in a new quarterback, but the Badgers will do it with season-opening games against I-AA Murray State, Ball State and Cincinnati. The

PACIFIC-10

CONFERENCE
RANK

3

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY BOB CLARK, EUGENE (ORE.) REGISTER-GUARD

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

	Conference			Overall			W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.				
UCLA	8-0	309	198	10-2	476	340	65-39	.625	2,996	2,457
Arizona	7-1	274	176	12-1	439	236	65-40-1	.613	2,572	2,164
Oregon	5-3	291	234	8-4	473	328	61-52	.540	2,935	2,510
Southern California	5-3	245	160	8-5	346	241	62-43-4	.569	2,814	2,252
Washington	4-4	198	221	6-6	303	343	75-30-1	.708	3,230	2,030
Arizona State	4-4	284	269	5-6	333	338	56-45	.554	2,685	2,372
California	3-5	153	205	5-6	183	251	51-52-1	.490	2,778	2,698
Oregon State	2-6	191	252	5-6	286	291	22-76-1	.222	1,720	2,833
Stanford	2-6	184	261	3-8	261	365	47-44-2	.505	2,693	2,696
Washington State	0-8	146	299	3-8	223	349	47-44	.516	2,606	2,601

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS

SEASON KEYS

Offensive,
defensive

Best
offensive
players

Best
defensive
players

BIG GAMES
non-conference,
conference

1. ARIZONA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receivers must step up. Playmaker needed in secondary. 	TB Trung Canidate QB Keith Smith	LB Marcus Bell LB DaShon Polk	Aug. 28 at Penn State Oct. 30 at UCLA
2. UCLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line needs to develop to protect new QB. Need maturity after growing pains of 1998. 	WR Danny Farmer TB DeShaun Foster	LB Ryan Nece E Kenyon Coleman	Sep. 11 at Ohio State Oct. 30 vs. Arizona
3. ARIZONA STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receivers and a kicker must emerge. Porous pass defense must tighten. 	TB J.R. Redmond T Marvel Smith	CB Courtney Jackson P Stephen Baker	Oct. 9 at Notre Dame Oct. 2 vs. UCLA
4. SO. CALIFORNIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carson Palmer needs to prove he's No. 1 QB. Secondary breaking in three new starters. 	WR R. Jay Soward T Travis Claridge	CB Antuan Simmons T Ennis Davis	Oct. 16 at Notre Dame Oct. 9 at Arizona
5. OREGON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New QB breaks in behind a young line. Small line has to be strong against the run. 	TB Reuben Droughns K Nathan Villegas	LB Peter Sirmon LB Dietrich Moore	Sep. 2 at Michigan State Oct. 9 at UCLA
6. WASHINGTON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must establish a ground game and go-to WR. Big, physical line must be strong vs. the run. 	G Chad Ward QB Marques Tuiasosopo	T Jabari Issa LB Lester Towns	Sep. 25 vs. Colorado Oct. 2 vs. Oregon
7. CALIFORNIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New QB needs to energize moribund attack. Developing defense headed by great line. 	TB Marcus Fields C John Romero	LB Sekou Sanyika E Andre Carter	Sep. 11 at Nebraska Sep. 25 vs. Arizona State
8. WASHINGTON STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaky QB situation exasperated by iffy line. Line breaking in several new starters. 	RB Kevin Brown WR Nian Taylor	FS Lamont Thompson LB Steve Gleason	Sep. 4 vs. Utah Oct. 2 vs. California
9. OREGON STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wideouts and TE must develop. Line solid, but LBs iffy and secondary thin. 	TB Ken Simonton T Jason White	FS Terrence Carroll LB Jonathan Jackson	Sep. 11 vs. Fresno State Oct. 9 vs. Washington
10. STANFORD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran crew breaking in two new linemen. Ten returning starters must get tougher. 	WR Troy Walters C Mike McLaughlin	FS Tim Smith T Willie Howard	Sep. 4 at Texas Sep. 11 vs. Washington St.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Trung Canidate, Arizona

Trung Canidate scored his first touchdown for Arizona not on a run or a pass. The Wildcats didn't even have the ball. Canidate put his first six points on the board when he blocked a punt and recovered it for a touchdown as a freshman in 1996.

"That's the fastest way to make a big play in a game," Arizona coach Dick Tomey says. "He's a playmaker, a very tough, aggressive young man."

Canidate has been on special teams throughout his career, but since that first touchdown he has been making the most of his big plays with the ball in his hands. He led the Pac-10 in rushing in 1998 with 1,321 yards, and his average of 7.3 yards per carry was the best among the top 50 rushers in the country.

"We didn't use him much in short-

yardage or goal-line situations, and that probably contributed to the fact he had such a high yards-per-carry average," Tomey says.

Yes, but so did Canidate's ability to always be within reach of the end zone. In Arizona's last four regular-season games, he had runs of 75, 45, 71, 61, 54, 80, 66 and 48 yards.

The wonder might be what Canidate will do with a full season. A broken bone in his foot knocked him out midway through the 1997 season, or he might have been the Pac-10 rushing champion. The recovery from that injury lasted into the opening games of 1998.

"It was slow to heal, and he was worried about it," Tomey says. "I still don't think he was full speed last year, maybe 95 percent."

At 100 percent, there are likely to be more of those 100-yard games. Maybe even a 100-yard run, too. —Bob Clark

DEFENSE



Sekou Sanyika, California

Having seen how many tackles Sekou Sanyika had made in backfields in falls past, California coach Tom Holmoe was concerned about his outside linebacker throwing the Bears for a loss last winter. The 6-4, 240-pound Sanyika was considering leaving early for the NFL.

"He was very up front with me, that he wanted to go through the process," Holmoe says. "He found out the information he needed to make a decision and decided he wanted to stay. He told me it was worth it to find out the information."

Typical, because more than anything Sanyika's ability to be a true student of the game is what has turned him into the most potent defensive force in the Pac-10. He led the conference in tackles for lost yardage in 1998 with 23 for

125 yards, numbers made more amazing by the fact he usually is lined up on the tight end side of an offense's formation.

"That position doesn't lend itself to being spectacular," says Lyle Setencich, Cal's defensive coordinator. "He may be better than I think he is."

What Sanyika does is maximize his ability through physical effort, and his opportunities through mental dynamics. There's some instinct, too. One play by Sanyika became almost legendary around the Pac-10 last season. He rushed the Arizona passer but found in his path fullback Kelvin Eafon, one of the best backfield blockers in the league. Sanyika leaped over the 5-11 Eafon and batted down the attempted pass. That's effort with a capital E.

"You'd love to have all the players on the team be like that," Holmoe says. "With Sekou, he has an idea of what he can become. Sometimes it takes players a long time to figure that, but fortunately for Sekou it came early." —Bob Clark

PRESEASON

All-Pacific-10

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Danny Farmer, UCLA	6-4	210	Sr.
WR	R. Jay Soward, Southern California	5-11	175	Sr.
TE	Todd Heap, Arizona State	6-5	230	So.
T	Marvel Smith, Arizona State	6-6	300	Jr.
T	Travis Claridge, Southern California	6-6	310	Sr.
G	Oscar Cabrera, UCLA	6-4	290	Jr.
G	Chad Ward, Washington	6-5	315	Jr.
C	Mike McLaughlin, Stanford	6-4	305	Sr.
QB	Keith Smith, Arizona	5-11	202	Sr.
RB	Trung Canidate, Arizona	5-11	199	Sr.
RB	J.R. Redmond, Arizona State	6-0	215	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Andre Carter, California	6-4	250	Jr.
E	Kenyon Coleman, UCLA	6-5	275	Jr.
T	Jabari Issa, Washington	6-6	295	Sr.
T	Jerry DeLoach, California	6-4	305	Sr.
LB	Sekou Sanyika, California	6-4	240	Sr.
LB	Marcus Bell, Arizona	6-2	231	Sr.
LB	Peter Sirmon, Oregon	6-2	245	Sr.
CB	Antuan Simmons, Southern California	5-11	185	Jr.
CB	Jason Bell, UCLA	6-1	177	Sr.
S	Lamont Thompson, Washington State	6-2	214	Jr.
S	Tim Smith, Stanford	6-4	230	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Nathan Villegas, Oregon	5-9	165	Sr.
P	Stephen Baker, Arizona State	5-11	186	So.
KR	Joe Jarzynka, Washington	5-7	175	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Troy Walters, Stanford	5-8	170	Sr.
WR	Dennis Northcutt, Arizona	5-11	172	Sr.
TE	Antoine Harris, Southern California	6-4	245	Jr.
T	Manuia Savea, Arizona	6-2	296	Sr.
T	Brian Polak, UCLA	6-4	325	Jr.
G	Ryan Tujague, Washington State	6-6	294	Sr.
G	Aaron Koch, Oregon State	6-3	294	Sr.
C	Keith DiDomenico, Oregon State	6-5	311	Jr.
QB	Todd Husak, Stanford	6-3	210	Sr.
RB	Reuben Droughns, Oregon	6-0	210	Sr.
RB	Kevin Brown, Washington State	6-2	218	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Joe Tafoya, Arizona	6-4	255	Jr.
E	Saul Patu, Oregon	6-3	260	Jr.
T	Mac Tuiaea, Washington	6-6	290	Sr.
T	Ennis Davis, Southern California	6-4	295	Jr.
LB	Matt Beck, California	6-4	230	Sr.
LB	Lester Towns, Washington	6-3	240	Sr.
LB	Steve Gleason, Washington State	5-11	210	Sr.
CB	Chris Martin, Washington State	5-11	186	Sr.
CB	Courtney Jackson, Arizona State	6-1	190	Sr.
S	David Gibson, Southern California	6-2	215	Sr.
S	Terrence Carroll, Oregon State	6-0	213	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Rian Lindell, Washington State	6-3	245	Sr.
P	Nick Harris, California	6-2	215	Jr.
KR	Deltha O'Neal, California	5-11	190	Sr.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Paul Arnold, RB, Washington

Defense: Markus Steele, LB, Southern California

PACIFIC-10

1 Arizona

NATIONAL RANK
4

Site: Tucson

Coach: Dick Tomey (84-52-4, 12 years; 147-98-7 overall, 22 years)

Offensive coordinator: Dino Babers (2nd season)

Defensive coordinator: Rich Ellerson (3rd season)

Offensive scheme: Multiple

Defensive scheme: Flex

Starters lost: 8

Lettermen lost: 21

Lettermen returning: 47

Stadium: Arizona (grass, 56,500)

Last league title won: 1993 (tie)

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996

1998 TSN rank: 4th

1998 record: 12-1 (beat Nebraska in Holiday Bowl); Pac-10: 7-1 (2nd)

1998 RESULTS

at Hawaii, W 27-6

at Stanford, W 31-14

Iowa, W 35-11

at San Diego St., W 35-16

at Washington, W 31-28

UCLA, L 52-28

at Oregon State, W 28-7

NE Louisiana, W 45-7

Oregon, W 38-3

Washington State, W 41-7

at California, W 27-23

Arizona State, W 50-42

Nebraska, W 23-20

SCHEDULE

A28—at Penn State

S4—at Texas Christian

S11—Middle Tennessee St.

S18—Stanford

S25—at Washington State

O9—Southern California

O16—Texas-El Paso

O23—Oregon

O30—at UCLA

N6—Washington

N13—at Oregon State

N27—at Arizona State

Quarterbacks: If he had thrown enough passes last season, Keith Smith would have led the nation in pass efficiency. He fell short in attempts because he shared time with Ortege Jenkins. While the arrangement limited time and attempts for each, it worked for the Wildcats, who benefit from the running, under-

rated passing ability and unselfishness of the room-mates.

Running backs: Trung Canidate, who led the Pac-10 in rushing last season with 1,225 yards, may see his average per carry of 7.4 yards drop because he's likely to assume some of the short-yardage duties that were handled by Kelvin Eafon. The Wildcats won't over-work Canidate; they have capable backups in Leon Callen and Leo Mills.

Receivers: Dennis Northcutt, half of the best receiving duo in Arizona history, is back. But who will replace Jeremy McDaniel? Brad Brennan was a capable third receiver last fall but isn't the deep threat that McDaniel was. That duty could fall to one of the junior college transfers, Marvin Brown and Brandon Marshall. Brandon Manumaleuna, a 286-pound tight end, is little more than a sixth lineman.

Offensive line: The loss of 337-pound Yusuf Scott a year early to the NFL should be covered by the presence of 316-pound Marques McFadden at right guard, especially since he will play between a pair of stand-outs, center Bruce Wiggins and tackle Manuia Savea. On the other side, Steven Grace returns at guard after starting as a freshman, leaving only a tackle spot to fill. Look for one of the Freitas brothers, junior Makai or sophomore Makoa, or freshman Chris Redding to take the job. Two mobile quarterbacks and the speedy Canidate make this line's work easier than most.

Defensive line: There's not a Rob Waldrop or Tedy Bruschi in this group—yet—but youngsters such as tackle Keoni Fraser and end Joe Tafoya were instrumental in Arizona leading the Pac-10 in rushing defense last season. That group will welcome back end Mike Robertson, who is healthy again. There's more talent in Young Thompson, a spring arrival from Samoa, and Cory Kipp, a true freshman compared as a prep to former Washington great Steve Emtman.

Linebackers: Marcus Bell, showing why the defense was designed to funnel ball carriers to him, led the Pac-10 in tackles last season. He's back, along with fellow seniors DaShon Polk and Scooter Sprotte, who are as solid as Bell. There's concern about depth. The Wildcats need contributions from junior college transfer Austin Uku or freshmen Joseph Siofele and Lance Briggs.

Secondary: Nobody is going to replace cornerback

Chris McAlister, but Kelvin Hunter and Leland Gayles are 5-9 seniors with starting experience. Gayles is coming off an injury that ended his 1998 season prematurely. David Laudermilk, a 6-2 redshirt freshman, offers more size than the starters and has a bright future. The safeties also are seniors, Greg Payne and Rafell Jones, making this a unit rich in experience.

Special teams: Northcutt is one of the league's best punt returners, averaging 11.5 yards last season. The Wildcats will miss McAlister on kickoff returns. Last year's backup punter, Chris Palic, needs to prove he



Platoon QB: Smith is good enough to start every game for a lot of teams, but he will continue to share the position at Arizona.

can handle the role fulltime. Mark McDonald needs to improve his field-goal accuracy (8 of 17 last season).

Schedule: The Wildcats will put their national title aspirations on the line in the opener; they play at Penn State. The second non-league game, at Texas Christian, also could be a difficult assignment. The Wildcats play Southern California and Washington at home, and travel to UCLA and Arizona State.

Coaching: Dick Tomey enters his 13th season with a group of assistants with a combined 55 years at Arizona. The Wildcats are coming off their best season ever, followed by Tomey's best recruiting class.

Outlook: Expectations haven't been this high since 1994. Unlike that season, which ended with an 8-4 record, this one should end with a Rose Bowl bid or in the Sugar Bowl playing for the national title.

WILDCATS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Brad Brennan	5-10	173	Sr.	Malosi Leonard	6-2	214	So.
T	Makoa Freitas	6-4	280	So.	*Darren Safraneck	6-7	275	Fr.
G	Steven Grace	6-2	271	So.	*Chris Redding	6-4	340	Fr.
C	Bruce Wiggins	6-3	275	Jr.	*Steven Grace	6-2	271	So.
G	Marques McFadden	6-4	316	Jr.	*Aaron Higginbotham	6-5	300	Fr.
T	Manuia Savea	6-2	296	Sr.	Ega Usu	6-5	320	Sr.
TE	Brandon Manumaleuna	6-2	286	Jr.	*James Hugo	6-6	250	Fr.
WR	Dennis Northcutt	5-11	172	Sr.	*Michael Hairgrove	6-2	205	Fr.
QB	Keith Smith	5-11	202	Sr.	Ortege Jenkins	6-2	224	Jr.
TB	Trung Canidate	5-11	199	Sr.	Leon Callen	5-9	189	Jr.
FB	Jim Wendler	5-10	222	Sr.	Dolphin Tillman	6-2	260	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Mike Robertson	6-2	225	Jr.	Idris Haroon	6-1	266	Jr.
T	Keoni Fraser	6-0	287	So.	J.J. Joppru	6-4	280	Sr.
T	Anthony Thomas	6-1	282	Jr.	James Lewis	6-5	280	Sr.
E	Joe Tafoya	6-4	255	Jr.	Alex Luna	6-1	224	So.
OLB	DaShon Polk	6-2	230	Sr.	Stadford Glover	6-0	230	Sr.
ILB	Marcus Bell	6-2	231	Sr.	Adrian Koch	5-8	212	Jr.
ILB	Scooter Sprotte	5-11	219	Sr.	Antonio Pierce	6-1	225	Jr.
CB	Kelvin Hunter	5-9	169	Sr.	*David Laudermilk	6-2	170	Fr.
SS	Greg Payne Jr.	5-10	192	Sr.	James Hinrichs	5-8	175	Jr.
FS	Rafell Jones	5-10	193	Sr.	*Jarvie Worcester	6-0	215	Fr.
CB	Leland Gayles	5-9	178	Sr.	*David Hinton	5-11	175	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Mark McDonald	6-1	200	Sr.	P	Chris Palic	6-3	195	So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

2 UCLA

Site: Los Angeles
Coach: Bob Toledo (25-10, 3 years; 54-46 overall, 9 years)
Offensive coordinator: Alan Borges (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: Bob Field (16th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 45
Stadium: Rose Bowl (grass, 98,000)
Last league title won: 1998
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 7th
1998 record: 10-2 (lost to Wisconsin in Rose Bowl); Pac-10: 8-0 (1st)

1998 RESULTS

Texas, W 49-31
 at Houston, W 42-24
 Washington St., W 49-17
 at Arizona, W 52-28
 Oregon, W 41-38 (OT)
 at California, W 28-16
 Stanford, W 28-24
 at Oregon State, W 41-34
 at Washington, W 36-24
 So. California, W 34-17
 Miami, Fla., L 49-45
 Wisconsin, L 38-31

SCHEDULE

S4—Boise State
 S11—at Ohio State
 S18—Fresno State
 S25—at Stanford
 O2—at Arizona State
 O9—Oregon
 O16—California
 O23—at Oregon State
 O30—Arizona
 N13—Washington
 N20—at So. California

NATIONAL RANK 10

Quarterbacks: There was no more valuable player in the Pac-10 last season than Cade McNown. What will life be like for UCLA without the four-year starter? Among the five candidates vying to replace McNown, the only one with experience is Drew Bennett, one of the team's most athletic players. His presence didn't deter the likes of J.P. Losman, who graduated from high school early so he could enroll at UCLA for spring practice. Also, keep an eye on touted redshirt freshmen Ryan McCann and Cory Paus.

Running backs: Amid McNown's passing in 1998, it was almost forgotten that the Bruins finished second in the Pac-10 in rushing with 188 yards per game. Tailback DeShaun Foster, who led the team with 635 yards, is a budding star, and Jermaine Lewis is an underrated option. Keith Brown and true freshman Akil Harris complete a quartet that should be able to carry a big load while the new quarterback settles in. Durell Price is an underrated fullback.

Receivers: Danny Farmer, who averaged 22 yards per catch in '98, and 6-5 Brian Poli-Dixon are back. Then there's speedy Freddie Mitchell, who was beginning to blossom when he suffered a broken right leg in the second game. Redshirt freshman Gabe Crecion is the leading candidate to replace Mike Grieb at tight end. Randy Hakes and Bryan Fletcher give the Bruins ample options for two-tight end sets, and heralded freshman Mike Seidman may see time.

Offensive line: Losing three starters, including tackle Kris Farris a year early to the NFL, is a major hit, but the Bruins will be able to absorb it better than most. Mammoth tackle Brian Polak is a good building block, and guard Oscar Cabrera is another wide body. Look for highly regarded redshirt freshmen Mike Saffer and Blake Worley to emerge at guard and tackle, respectively. Troy Danoff is the center.

Defensive line: Long a team short on big bodies, the Bruins have enough that the move from a 3-4 to a 4-3 defense makes sense. End Kenyon Coleman is an emerging star, and tackles Anthony Fletcher and Ken Kocher aren't far behind. The other end could be Santi Hall, who was an outside linebacker.

Linebackers: The change in alignment means the Bruins need a true middle linebacker. A good fit might be Robert Thomas, who was tried on the outside last year. An outside spot is ideal for playmaker Ryan Nece, who seems able to play anywhere. He moved from safety to inside linebacker last season. Ali Abdul Azziz looks to be the other outside man.

Secondary: The loss of free safety Larry Atkins hurts. Jason Stephens will move from strong safety to fill the void. That creates a spot for redshirt freshman

Lovell Houston. Jason Bell is an able corner, but Marques Anderson or Ryan Roques need to overcome inconsistency to stabilize the other side.

Special teams: Roques was second in the Pac-10 in punt returns, averaging 12.5 yards, in 1998. With Mitchell handling kickoffs, the Bruins should be able to match last season's average of 23.7 yards, 11th in the nation. Now the problem: Kicker/punter Chris Sailer is gone. True freshman Nathan Fikse will compete with walk-ons for the kicking job, but who punts?

Coaching: Bob Toledo will have his third defensive



Emerging star: Coleman's size, strength and quickness helped convince the Bruins to shift from a 3-4 to 4-3 defense.

coordinator in three seasons. Bob Field has replaced Nick Aliotti, who returned to Oregon. Field is a long-time UCLA assistant who had been defensive coordinator for Terry Donahue before becoming assistant head coach on Toledo's staff.

Schedule: A game at Ohio State will be a good measuring stick. The Pac-10 schedule is built for success, with the toughest roads at Arizona State and Southern California.

Outlook: There's a big if at quarterback, and some young players need to step up on the offensive line, but the Bruins can match talent with any team. If the quarterback can take advantage of the talent at receiver, the offense might be as good as last year. And the defense will be better. There's no reason the Bruins can't make another run at the Rose Bowl.

BRUINS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Brian Poli-Dixon	6-5	210	Jr.	Brad Melsby	6-0	199	Sr.
T	*Blake Worley	6-6	306	Fr.	Josh Webb	6-6	280	Jr.
G	Oscar Cabrera	6-4	290	Jr.	Matt Phelan	6-4	280	Sr.
C	Troy Danoff	6-4	297	Sr.	Tony Ippolito	6-4	272	Jr.
G	*Mike Saffer	6-5	301	Fr.	James Ghezzi	6-5	290	Sr.
T	Brian Polak	6-4	325	Jr.	Ed Anderson	6-5	292	So.
TE	Gabe Crecion	6-5	243	Jr.	Bryan Fletcher	6-5	225	So.
WR	Danny Farmer	6-4	210	Sr.	Freddie Mitchell	5-11	176	So.
QB	Drew Bennett	6-5	205	Jr.	*Cory Paus	6-2	219	Fr.
RB	Jermaine Lewis	5-7	180	Jr.	DeShaun Foster	6-1	205	So.
FB	Durell Price	6-0	226	Sr.	Matt Stanley	6-3	231	So.

DEFENSE

E	Kenyon Coleman	6-5	275	Jr.	*Sean Phillips	6-5	280	Fr.
T	Ken Kocher	6-4	292	So.	*Steve Morgan	6-3	305	Fr.
T	Pete Holland	6-3	270	Sr.	Anthony Fletcher	6-3	293	So.
E	*Rusty Williams	6-4	250	Fr.	Stephen Sua	6-2	247	So.
OLB	Ali Abdul Azziz	6-2	224	Fr.	Billy Pieper	6-2	227	Jr.
MLB	Tony White	6-1	220	Jr.	Robert Thomas	6-2	225	So.
OLB	Ryan Nece	6-2	203	So.	*Rob Kolaczynski	6-0	226	Fr.
CB	Marques Anderson	6-0	182	Jr.	Julius Williams	6-0	193	So.
SS	Jason Stephens	6-2	188	So.	Eric Whitfield	6-2	205	Fr.
FS	Ryan Roques	6-0	180	Sr.	Joey Strycula	6-0	189	Sr.
CB	Jason Bell	6-1	177	Sr.	*Joe Hunter	5-11	170	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K *Chris Griffith 6-1 180 Fr. P to be determined in fall practice

*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

3 Arizona State

Site: Tempe
Coach: Bruce Snyder (46-33, 7 years; 114-94-5 overall, 19 years)
Offensive coordinator: Dan Cozzetto (7th season)
Defensive coordinator: Phil Snow (4th season)
Offensive scheme: I and split backs
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 40
Stadium: Sun Devil (grass, 73,379)
Last league title won: 1996
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 51st
1998 record: 5-6; Pac-10: 4-4 (tie 5th)

1998 RESULTS

Washington, L 42-38
 at Brigham Young, L 26-6
 North Texas, W 34-15
 Oregon State, W 24-3
 at So. California, L 35-24
 Notre Dame, L 28-9
 Stanford, W 44-38 (OT)
 at Washington St., W 38-28
 California, W 55-22
 at Oregon, L 51-19
 at Arizona, L 50-42

SCHEDULE

S4—Texas Tech
 S18—New Mexico State
 S25—at California
 O2—UCLA
 O9—at Notre Dame
 O16—at Washington
 O23—Washington State
 O30—at Oregon
 N6—at Southern California
 N13—Stanford
 N27—Arizona

NATIONAL RANK
18

Quarterbacks: It wasn't that Ryan Kealy had a bad season in 1998; it was his inconsistency that led to his benching at mid-season. Kealy regained his job and restored his confidence. And with his health no longer a question after a long rehab from a knee injury suffered two years ago, the junior seems poised to

be one of the Pac-10's top passers. Depth is lacking.

Running backs: The offense is much better with J.R. Redmond at full speed. One way to keep the senior healthy might be with less work, and junior college transfer Delvon Flowers, Davaren Hightower and red-shirt freshman Kyran Jones can share the load.

Redmond can help in many ways (receiver, kick returner, defensive back), so he may be asked to do less as a tailback. The loss of fullback Jeff Paulk leaves the Sun Devils considering different formations.

Offensive line: Looks good. The Sun Devils have an All-American-type in left tackle Marvel Smith. Sophomore Scott Peters, who isn't far from that level, is moving from guard to center. Victor Leyva will assume right tackle. The guards are Thomas Schmidt and Korey Ramsay.

Receivers: Lenzie Jackson is out of eligibility. The Sun Devils also have lost Ricky Boyer, an academic casualty, and Tariq McDonald missed spring practice to focus on classes and has an uncertain future. At least Justin Taplin looks good. And there is no uncertainty at tight end, where sophomore Todd Heap is a rising star and will be used with Kendrick Bates in two-tight ends sets.

Defensive line: One telling statistic was the Sun Devils had only 24 sacks, second-fewest in the league, last season. That's unlike past Arizona State teams that have terrorized passers. Junior Ioane should be more of a force in his second season out of junior college, but he can't do it alone.

Linebackers: Eric Fields, Stephen Trejo and Adam Archuleta again will start, but they'll be pushed by junior college transfers Adam Tanke and Jamall Anderson. This unit was inconsistent last season, a major factor in Arizona State yielding 406.5 yards per game.

Secondary: Two returning starters are back from a unit that allowed a league-high 23 touchdown passes last season. The best of the veterans is cornerback Courtney Jackson, who suffered an ankle injury in the final game last season and might not be at full speed when the 1999 season opens. The other corner could be J'Juan Cherry, victimized often last season, former safety Christon Rance, junior college transfer Nijrell Eason or Courtney Hysaw, who was sorely missed after he suffered a preseason knee injury a year ago.

Rance's move leaves both safety spots open, where Alfred Williams is an emerging talent. Junior college transfers Monte' Franks and Craig Koontz need to help.

Special teams: Redmond is the best return man in the Pac-10; he led the league in punt returns with a 13.7-yard average in 1998. He's outstanding on kick-offs too, if teams kick to him. Stephen Baker averaged 45.7 yards per punt last season, earning TSN Freshman All-American honors, but he needs to add height to allow for better coverage. Baker likely will be



Pleasant surprise: Heap's rapid emergence at tight end last season gave Arizona State coaches yet another option to work with.

replaced as a kicker by freshman Mike Barth.

Schedule: The Sun Devils' fate likely will be determined by a five-week stretch starting October 2 with a home game against UCLA. The next five weeks include games at Notre Dame, Washington, Oregon and Southern California. The only breather in that stretch is a match in Tempe with Washington State.

Coaching: Bruce Snyder's staff remains intact for a third straight year, and there's every reason to think they'll rebound from a 5-6 season that began with national title hopes. If not, defensive coordinator Phil Snow will be on the hot seat.

Outlook: Provided some receivers surface, the offense should be better. A bigger problem is the defense. But there appears to be enough talent for the Sun Devils to earn a bowl bid.

SUN DEVILS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Tariq McDonald	6-1	180	Jr.	Ryan Dennard	6-4	210	So.
T	Marvel Smith	6-6	300	Jr.	Levi Jones	6-6	290	So.
G	Korey Ramsay	6-3	280	Jr.	Kyle Kosier	6-6	258	So.
C	Scott Peters	6-3	300	So.	Ryan Delnoce	6-2	264	Jr.
G	Thomas Schmidt	6-6	305	Sr.	Kaleb Ramsay	6-3	295	Jr.
T	Victor Leyva	6-4	294	Jr.	Thomas Schmidt	6-6	305	Sr.
TE	Kendrick Bates	6-6	245	Sr.	Todd Heap	6-5	230	So.
WR	Justin Taplin	6-0	180	So.	Brian Forth	5-11	179	Jr.
QB	Ryan Kealy	6-2	205	Jr.	*Matt Cooper	6-4	214	Fr.
TB	J.R. Redmond	6-0	215	Sr.	Davaren Hightower	6-2	207	So.
FB	Terrelle Smith	6-1	236	Sr.	Jake Each	6-1	233	So.

DEFENSE

E	Quincy Yancey	6-8	255	Jr.	*Mike Pinkard	6-5	265	Fr.
T	Ryan Reilly	6-2	275	Sr.	Che' Britton	6-1	272	Sr.
T	Junior Ioane	6-4	312	Sr.	Jawell Samilton	6-2	286	Sr.
E	Erik Flowers	6-4	241	Sr.	Elza Gennicks	6-5	230	So.
LB	Eric Fields	6-3	219	So.	Adam Tanke	6-2	225	Jr.
LB	Stephen Trejo	6-3	255	Jr.	*Jay Breckenridge	6-2	195	Fr.
LB	Adam Archuleta	6-0	208	Jr.	*Mason Unck	6-2	205	Fr.
CB	J'Juan Cherry	6-0	205	Sr.	Kareem Clark	5-10	186	Sr.
SS	Willie Daniel	6-0	209	So.	Monte' Franks	6-1	206	Jr.
FS	*Alfred Williams	6-1	195	Fr.	Craig Koontz	6-0	190	Jr.
CB	Courtney Jackson	6-1	190	Sr.	Christon Rance	6-2	200	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Mike Barth	6-0	205	Fr.	P	Stephen Baker	5-11	186	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

4 Southern California

Site: Los Angeles
Coach: Paul Hackett (8-5, 1 year; 21-25-1 overall, 4 years)

Offensive coordinator: Hue Jackson (3rd season)

Defensive coordinator: Bill Young (2nd season)

Offensive scheme: multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 8

Lettermen lost: 17

Lettermen returning: 41

Stadium: Memorial Coliseum (grass, 92,000)

Last league title won: 1995 (tie)

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997

1998 TSN rank: 35th

1998 record: 8-5 (lost to Texas Christian in Sun Bowl); Pac 10: 5-3 (tie 3rd)

1998 RESULTS

Purdue, W 27-17
 San Diego State, W 35-6
 Oregon State, W 40-20
 at Florida State, L 30-10
 Arizona State, W 35-24
 California, L 32-31
 at Washington St., W 42-14
 at Oregon, L 17-13
 Washington, W 33-10
 at Stanford, W 34-9
 at UCLA, L 34-17
 Notre Dame, W 10-0
 Texas Christian, L 28-19

SCHEDULE

S4—at Hawaii
 S18—San Diego State
 S25—at Oregon
 O2—Oregon State
 O9—at Arizona
 O16—at Notre Dame
 O23—Stanford
 O30—at California
 N6—Arizona State
 N20—UCLA
 N26—Louisiana Tech

NATIONAL RANK
19

Quarterbacks: As a true freshman in 1998, Carson Palmer completed 55 percent of his passes after assuming the starting role for the last five games. There's every indication that if USC loosens the reins—the Trojans had the Pac-10's worst passing attack last season—Palmer will become one of

the league's top passers. Mike Van Raaphorst returns as the backup.

Running back: Lightning-quick Chad Morton finished 15 yards short of 1,000 last season because he missed two games with injury. Durability always is a question with the 5-8, 185-pound Morton. There are plenty of capable backups. Petros Papadakis is especially adept in short-yardage situations. Frank Strong and super-fast Sultan McCullough appear ready to emerge. Brennan Ochs or Malaefou MacKenzie needs to step forward at fullback.

Receivers: R. Jay Soward scores a touchdown every seventh time he touches the ball. But there were games last fall when he was shut down—and that was with experienced receivers on the other side. The likely starter at the other wideout spot is Windrell Hayes, but true freshmen Kareem Kelly and Marcell Allmond may steal time. The Trojans are solid at tight end with Antoine Harris, who is ready to blossom.

Offensive line: All five starters return, but is the unit as strong and consistent as past USC lines? Guard Travis Claridge is a star who has started all 36 games of his career, and tackle Brent McCaffrey likely is a future pro. If any of the others—tackle Matt Welch, guard Jason Grain, center Matt McShane—falser, Faaesee Mailo is back from his Mormon mission; he started three games as a true freshman in 1996.

Defensive line: This will be the strength of the defense, and not just because there was a lot of attrition in the back seven. Three starters return, including tackle Ennis Davis, who should be recovered from a knee injury suffered in the Sun Bowl. End Sultan Abdul-Malik, the team's sack leader the past two years, is being tried at linebacker, as former tight end Lonnie Ford and Kori Dickerson are battling for the rush end spot. End Matt Childers, who transferred from Kansas State, and Shamsud-Din Abdul-Shaheed, who has started at end and tackle, also figure in the mix.

Linebackers: The only returning starter is Zeke Moreno, who could start at any of the three positions. He fits best on the strongside but could move inside if star junior college transfer Markus Steele can't fill the opening left by Chris Claiborne's defection to the NFL. Darryl Knight and Abdul-Malik are in the mix.

Secondary: Only one starter returns, but Antuan Simmons is as good as any cornerback in the Pac-10.

The strong safety spot also is in good hands with David Gibson, who is back in the secondary after playing weakside linebacker last fall. Ifeanyi Ohalet, a special-teams star, figures to be the free safety. Highly regarded freshman Darrell Rideaux might be able to help immediately at the other cornerback.

Special teams: Soward has averaged 26.2 yards on kickoff returns and 18.3 on punt returns in his career with five returns for TDs. The Trojans also might give Morton more chances on kick returns. Mike MacGillivray averaged 37.7 yards on a school-record



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

The Trojans' horse: When he's not catching touchdown passes, Soward is returning kicks. He's a big key to Southern California's hopes.

87 punts last season, a number the offense isn't interested in duplicating. The kicker is expected to be junior college transfer David Newbury.

Schedule: The start may be bumpy, with four of the first six games on the road. The Trojans could be 4-0 when they travel to Arizona on October 9 for a game that will determine their title aspirations.

Coaching: Paul Hackett has made one change for his second season at USC. Assistant head coach Larry Petroff has been moved entirely to off-field duties.

Outlook: Southern California can't rely on its defense, as it did last season. But with so much talent back on offense, the Trojans should rank better than ninth in the league in total offense. Assuming the defense settles and the offense performs as expected, the Trojans could contend for the Pac-10 title.

TROJANS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Windrell Hayes	6-0	200	Sr.	*Jason d'Autremont	6-0	175	Fr.
T	Brent McCaffrey	6-5	270	Jr.	*Derek Graf	6-4	260	Fr.
G	Donta Kendrick	6-3	200	Sr.	Jason Grain	6-5	310	Sr.
C	Eric Denmon	6-2	260	Jr.	Matt McShane	6-5	285	Sr.
G	Travis Claridge	6-6	310	Sr.	*Zach Wilson	6-4	270	Fr.
T	Matt Welch	6-6	295	Jr.	Travis Claridge	6-6	310	Sr.
TE	Antoine Harris	6-4	245	Jr.	Pat Swanson	6-4	235	Sr.
WR	R. Jay Soward	5-11	175	Sr.	Quincy Woods	6-1	185	Sr.
QB	Carson Palmer	6-4	220	So.	Mike Van Raaphorst	6-5	220	Jr.
RB	Chad Morton	5-8	185	Sr.	Petros Papadakis	6-1	215	Sr.
FB	Brennan Ochs	6-2	225	Jr.	Malaefou MacKenzie	6-0	220	So.

DEFENSE

E	Kori Dickerson	6-4	220	So.	Lonnie Ford	6-3	230	So.
T	Aaron Williams	6-4	270	Sr.	Darren Collins	6-3	260	Jr.
T	Ennis Davis	6-4	295	Jr.	Ryan Nielsen	6-5	245	So.
E	S-D Abdul-Shaheed	6-4	260	Jr.	Matt Childers	6-4	265	Jr.
OLB	Sultan Abdul-Malik	6-3	225	Jr.	Jason Steen	6-4	220	Jr.
MLB	Zeke Moreno	6-3	240	Jr.	*Armand Holland	6-1	225	Fr.
OLB	Darryl Knight	6-3	215	So.	Henry Wallace	6-2	210	So.
CB	Antuan Simmons	5-11	185	Jr.	Eric Reese	5-11	200	So.
SS	David Gibson	6-2	215	Sr.	John Morgan	6-2	195	Jr.
FS	Ifeanyi Ohalet	6-2	215	Jr.	Darnell Lacy	6-3	195	Jr.
CB	Kris Richard	6-0	175	So.	Tanqueray Clark	6-0	180	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	David Newbury	5-9	170	So.	P Mike MacGillivray	5-10	205	So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

5 Oregon

Site: Eugene

Coach: Mike Bellotti (30-17, 4 years; 53-42-2 overall, 9 years)

Offensive coordinator: Jeff Tedford (2nd season)

Defensive coordinator: Nick Aliotti (3rd season)

Offensive scheme: Pro set

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 10

Lettermen lost: 17

Lettermen returning: 47

Stadium: Autzen (turf, 41,698)

Last league title won: 1994

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996

1998 TSN rank: 28th

1998 record: 8-4 (lost to Colorado in Aloha Bowl); Pac-10: 5-3 (tie 3rd)

1998 RESULTS

Michigan State, W 48-14
at Texas-El Paso, W 33-26

San Jose State, W 58-3
Stanford, W 63-28

at Washington St., W 51-29

at UCLA, L 41-38 (OT)

So. California, W 17-13

at Arizona, L 38-3

Washington, W 27-22

Arizona State, W 51-19

at Oregon St., L 44-41 (OT)
Colorado, L 51-43

SCHEDULE

S2—at Michigan State
S11—Texas-El Paso
S18—Nevada
S25—Southern California
O2—at Washington
O9—at UCLA
O23—at Arizona
O30—Arizona State
N6—Washington State
N13—at California
N20—Oregon State

NATIONAL RANK
36

Quarterbacks: Other schools turn out linebackers or running backs. Oregon sends Dan Fouts, Chris Miller and Akili Smith to the NFL. Next up is junior A.J. Feeley or sophomore Joey Harrington, who between them have thrown 11 passes in college. Just one came last season, and that was by Harrington on

a tailback option. Still, it seems to be the system that produces the results as much as the individual, so one or both should work.

Running backs: The Ducks had the best running game in the Pac-10 last season until Reuben Droughns suffered a broken ankle. Then they had one of the worst. His recovery will dictate whether the Ducks can take pressure off the inexperienced quarterback. Derien Latimer and Herman Ho-Ching are backups.

Receivers: One spot is set with Tony Hartley, who tied for the league lead in touchdown receptions last fall with 10 and resisted the urge to leave early for the NFL. Junior Ray Brust, who redshirted last year after knee surgery, figures to be the other starter. Speedster Bobby Nero and redshirt freshmen Jason Jenkins and Cy Aleman will compete with junior college transfer Marshaun Tucker for playing time. A bigger question is at tight end, where LaCorey Collins has been moved after two disappointing years as a receiver to compete with Justin Peele and Danny Pulido.

Offensive line: Deke Moen, the starting center the past two years, will have a new position. So will Lee Gundy, provided he has recovered from a broken leg suffered in the Aloha Bowl. Also back are tackles Josh Beckett and Scott Fergus, who alternated on the right side last season. Who plays where will be decided during fall practice. Redshirt freshmen Corey Chambers and Mike Belisle, the pride of the 1998 recruiting class, could contend for starting roles.

Defensive line: Undersized last season, the Ducks are no bigger at end with Terry Miller and Saul Patu. They could grow at tackle if Zack Freiter, hampered by injuries the past two seasons, claims one spot and 300-pound James Rose, one of the nation's top junior college linemen last season, takes the other spot.

Linebackers: Peter Sirmon, the league's leading tackler as a sophomore in '97, missed most of last year because of an injury. He's back, but Aaron Cheuvront had to give up football because of recurring headaches. Matt Smith, who played minor league baseball five years, has filled in adequately. Undersized big-play man Dietrich Moore rounds out the corps.

Secondary: The Ducks received a huge blow in the spring when star cornerback Rashad Bauman suffered a knee injury that will force him to miss the season. Without Bauman helping to provide man coverage,

Oregon can't play the pressure fronts it likes. The heat is on Tamoni Joiner and JC transfers Jermaine Hanspard and Brian Johnson to fill the cornerback voids. Another JC transfer, Ryan Mitchell, could push for time at free safety, even with seniors Justin Wilcox and Brandon McLemore back, or offer relief for rover Michael Fletcher, another senior.

Special teams: Nathan Villegas, a Groza Award finalist, is back after converting 20 of 22 field-goal attempts last season. The Ducks need junior college transfer Kurtis Doerr to replace star punter Josh Bidwell.



Sudden impact: How good was Droughns last season? He rushed for 824 yards in five games, including three 200-yard efforts.

Fletcher is a fine punt returner who likes to take risks.

Schedule: The opener at Michigan State might be a bit much for a new quarterback, especially with the Spartans after revenge for a 48-14 licking last season. October is brutal, with games at Washington, UCLA and Arizona and a visit from Arizona State.

Coaching: Nick Aliotti, architect of the "Gang Green" defense that took Oregon to the Rose Bowl in 1994, is back as defensive coordinator after three years in the NFL and one year at UCLA. He inherits a unit that includes eight returning starters and may need only a nickname to be as good as the '94 unit.

Outlook: The Ducks need Droughns at full speed to take pressure off the quarterback. The defense should be better but probably not good enough, especially minus Bauman, to compensate for a struggling offense.

DUCKS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Ray Brust	6-3	210	Jr.	Bobby Nero	6-1	175	So.
T	Scott Fergus	6-7	290	Sr.	Al Cotton	6-2	285	So.
G	Jim Adams	6-4	270	So.	*Corey Chambers	6-4	330	Fr.
C	Deke Moen	6-4	280	Sr.	Ryan Schmid	6-4	260	So.
G	Lee Gundy	6-5	305	Jr.	*Mike Belisle	6-5	315	Fr.
T	Josh Beckett	6-5	315	Sr.	John Bello	6-4	295	So.
TE	Enyi Nwamuo	6-4	242	Jr.	LaCorey Collins	6-4	220	Jr.
WR	Tony Hartley	6-0	190	Sr.	*Cy Aleman	6-3	190	Fr.
QB	A.J. Feeley	6-4	212	Jr.	Joey Harrington	6-4	205	So.
RB	Reuben Droughns	6-0	210	Sr.	Derien Latimer	5-11	208	Sr.
FB	Chris Young	6-0	220	Sr.	Chad Chance	6-2	220	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Terry Miller	6-3	250	Sr.	*Seth McEwen	6-5	232	Fr.
T	Caleb Smith	6-5	270	Sr.	Jed Boice	6-4	278	Jr.
T	Faiva Talaeai	6-4	290	Sr.	Zack Freiter	6-3	265	So.
E	Saul Patu	6-3	260	Jr.	Walker Templeton	6-4	240	Jr.
ILB	Peter Sirmon	6-2	245	Sr.	*Garret Graham	6-3	235	Fr.
MLB	Matt Smith	6-4	242	Jr.	Tim Shear	6-2	215	So.
OLB	Dietrich Moore	6-1	211	Sr.	Garrett Sabol	6-0	200	Jr.
CB	Tamoni Joiner	5-10	183	Jr.	Jermaine Hanspard	5-11	185	Jr.
SS	Michael Fletcher	5-10	200	Sr.	Gary Barker	6-0	195	Jr.
FS	Brandon McLemore	6-3	205	Sr.	Justin Wilcox	6-2	200	Sr.
CB	Brian Johnson	5-9	165	Jr.	Ryan Mitchell	5-11	180	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Nathan Villegas	5-9	165	Sr.	P	Kurtis Doerr	6-2	215	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

6 Washington

Site: Seattle
Coach: Rick Neuheisel (first year; 33-14 overall, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Karl Dorrell (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Tim Hundley (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple, I-back
Defensive scheme: Eagle set
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 48
Stadium: Husky (turf, 72,500)
Last league title won: 1995 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1994
1998 TSN rank: 41st
1998 record: 6-6 (lost to Air Force in Oahu Bowl); Pac-10: 4-4 (tie 5th)

1998 RESULTS

at Arizona State, W 42-38
 Brigham Young, W 20-10
 at Nebraska, L 55-7
 Arizona, L 31-28
 Utah State, W 53-12
 California, W 21-13
 Oregon State, W 35-34
 at So. California, L 33-10
 at Oregon, L 27-22
 UCLA, L 36-24
 at Washington St., W 16-9
 Air Force, L 45-25

SCHEDULE

S9—at Brigham Young
 S18—Air Force
 S25—Colorado
 O2—Oregon
 O9—at Oregon State
 O16—Arizona State
 O23—at California
 O30—Stanford
 N6—at Arizona
 N13—at UCLA
 N20—Washington State

NATIONAL RANK
39

Quarterbacks: With Brock Huard gone to the NFL a year early, the job is left to junior Marques Tuiasosopo, who filled in the past two years when Huard was injured. Tuiasosopo's running often has seemed more of a threat than his passing, a need last year given Washington's anemic running

game. Tuiasosopo needs to show passing ability to keep defenses honest, and he needs to learn a new offense quickly. If he falters, the Huskies may take a look at freshman Cody Pickett.

Running back: Willie Hurst will be better as a sophomore and senior Maurice Shaw should be steady if he's recovered from a back injury that sidelined him early last year. The Huskies recruited local standout Paul Arnold, and he'll be given every opportunity to become the No. 1 back.

Receivers: Dane Looker is a fine possession receiver; he averaged 10.3 yards on 64 receptions last season. The deep threat was supposed to be Ja'Warren Hooker, but he seems more likely to make an impact as a sprinter based on his first two seasons. That leaves Gerald Harris to assume the role, though senior Joe Jarzynka always seems to surface wherever the Huskies need him, be it returning kicks or kicking field goals. Freshman Kevin Ware figures to challenge Anthony Mizin, last year's backup, for the starting tight end position.

Offensive line: Guard Chad Ward is the only fixture in a line that needs to be rebuilt after losing four regulars. Junior college transfers Wes Call and Adis Davtyan need to contribute immediately. It may take a scrambling quarterback to buy this group time to develop.

Defensive line: Washington might have the best set of tackles in the league in Mac Tuiaea and Jabari Issa, the primary reasons the Huskies ranked No. 2 in the nation in sacks last season with 51. Their roles may change if Washington goes more with a 3-4 look and Larry Tripplett plays the nose, but their abilities certainly give the Huskies options on terrorizing quarterbacks.

Linebackers: Washington should be strong in the middle with seniors Marques Hairston and Lester Towns, provided Towns is able to play at full speed after being hampered by a foot injury last season. Depending on what front the Huskies play, they could have one or two outside linebackers, with Jeremiah Pharms first in line for that role.

Secondary: The Huskies gave up more passing yards and had fewer interceptions than any other team in the Pac-10 last year. There is a future star in sophomore safety Hakim Akbar, and junior college transfer

Roderick Green should ease the lack of talent at cornerback. Perhaps last year was a learning experience that will benefit cornerback Toure Butler and safety Omare Lowe.

Special teams: Washington ranked ninth in the league in net punting (32.6 yards) and converted only 6 of 11 field-goal attempts last season. Jarzynka, who made 6 of 8 field-goal attempts, likely will relinquish that job to true freshman John Anderson and concentrate on returning kicks, a role in which he excels.

Schedule: The easy part might be opening at



Inside job: Provided his foot is fine, Towns will be one of the Huskies' defensive anchors from his inside linebacker position.

Brigham Young. After that, Washington plays host to three formidable foes: Air Force, Colorado—which will be primed to prove Rick Neuheisel made a mistake when he fled Boulder—and Oregon. The Huskies have consecutive road games at Arizona and UCLA in November.

Coaching: It's an interesting mix, with offensive coordinator Karl Dorrell and defensive coordinator Tim Hundley coming from Colorado, defensive line coach Randy Hart retained from the previous staff and Keith Gilbertson, a former Huskies assistant, coming from the Seahawks to be assistant head coach.

Outlook: The offense and the secondary need to develop, and it all needs to happen quickly, what with a difficult early schedule. It promises to be a trying first season for Neuheisel.

HUSKIES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Chris Juergens	6-3	210	So.	Dajuan Hawkins	6-5	200	Jr.
T	Elliot Silvers	6-6	300	Jr.	Joe Collier	6-7	270	So.
C	Dominic Daste	6-3	320	Jr.	Rock Nelson	6-5	290	So.
G	Kyle Benn	6-3	300	So.	Matt Fraize	6-4	300	Jr.
QB	Chad Ward	6-5	315	Jr.	Zach McCall	6-5	330	Jr.
T	Kurth Connell	6-5	300	Sr.	*Elliott Zajac	6-4	300	Fr.
TE	*Jerramy Stevens	6-7	220	Fr.	Anthony Mizin	6-4	255	Sr.
WR	Gerald Harris	6-1	190	Jr.	Joe Jarzynka	5-7	175	Sr.
QB	Marques Tuiasosopo	6-2	215	Jr.	J.K. Scott	6-3	210	So.
TB	Willie Hurst	5-10	200	So.	Braxton Cleman	6-1	200	So.
FB	Pat Conniff	6-1	235*	Jr.	John Hart	6-1	230	So.

DEFENSE

E	Mac Tuiaea	6-6	290	Sr.	Ryan Julian	6-6	275	Jr.
NT	Larry Tripplett	6-2	285	So.	Toaile Multitauapele	6-5	320	Sr.
T	Jabari Issa	6-6	295	Sr.	Nick Feigner	6-4	255	So.
OLB	Jeremiah Pharms	6-1	235	Jr.	Odell George	6-2	225	Jr.
ILB	Lester Towns	6-3	245	Sr.	Marques Hairston	6-2	235	Sr.
ILB	Derrell Daniels	6-1	215	Jr.	Marques Hairston	6-2	230	Sr.
OLB	Jafar Williams	6-0	195	So.	Anthony Kelley	6-2	215	So.
CB	Anthony Vontoure	6-1	190	So.	Toure Butler	5-9	160	Jr.
SS	Hakim Akbar	6-1	195	So.	Nick Olszewski	5-10	180	So.
FS	Renard Edwards	6-2	195	Sr.	Curtis Williams	5-10	195	Jr.
CB	Jermaine Smith	5-11	195	Sr.	Omare Lowe	6-0	190	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	John Anderson	6-1	170	Fr.	P	Ryan Fleming	6-3	180	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

7 California

Site: Berkeley
Coach: Tom Holmoe (8-14, 2 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Hagen (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Lyle Setencich (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 40
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 74,909)
Last league title won: 1975
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 63rd
1998 record: 5-6; Pac 10: 3-5 (7th)

1998 RESULTS

Houston, W 14-10
 Nebraska, L 24-3
 at Oklahoma, W 13-12
 Washington St., W 24-14
 at So. California, W 32-31
 at Washington, L 21-13
 UCLA, L 28-16
 at Oregon State, W 20-19
 at Arizona State, L 55-22
 Arizona, L 27-23
 Stanford, L 10-3

SCHEDULE

S4—Rutgers
 S11—at Nebraska
 S25—Arizona State
 O2—at Washington State
 O9—at Brigham Young
 O16—at UCLA
 O23—Washington
 O30—Southern California
 N6—at Oregon State
 N13—Oregon
 N20—at Stanford

NATIONAL RANK
44

Quarterbacks: Justin Vedder is gone, but his 1998 backup, Sam Clemons, isn't assured of moving up. All indications are that newcomer Kyle Boller might be good enough to join Cade McNown and Carson Palmer as true freshmen who became starting quarterbacks for Pac-10 teams in the 1990s.

Running backs: The perception is that Cal didn't have much of a running game last year, but junior Marcus Fields ranked sixth in the league in rushing with 734 yards. If he could develop consistency, he might contend for the league rushing title.

Offensive line: There figures to be a major improvement in this unit, which allowed a league-high 58 sacks last fall, with former NFL lineman Ed White taking over coaching duties. Center John Romero anchors a unit that includes three returning starters. Monster tackle Langston Walker might be ready to dominate. Guards Brandon Ludwig and Kevin Doherty are experienced, and beefy junior college transfer Chris Chick figures to work his way into the lineup.

Receivers: Phillip Pipersburg and Joel Young played supporting roles last year while Dameane Douglas set a conference record with 100 receptions. Now they are they main guys. There should be help from a group of youngsters, notably redshirt freshman Michael Ainsworth.

Defensive line: The Bears were set up front, with standouts Andre Carter at end and Jerry DeLoach at tackle. Then Cal signed end Johnny Jackson, who led the nation's junior colleges in sacks last fall. There's plenty of depth with Jacob Waasdorp, Jeremiah Parker and Nate Geldermann, who all could start for any team in the league.

Linebackers: With Sekou Sanyika, the Pac-10 leader in tackles for lost yardage last year, on the outside and steady Matt Beck on the inside, the Bears can stop whatever gets past that formidable front four. Depth is a concern if one of those two gets hurt, but what team wouldn't suffer if a player of Sanyika's caliber was lost? Junior college transfer Chris Ball should help.

Secondary: The Bears return safety Pete Destefano and cornerback Chidi Iwuoma. Damian Marzett should more than adequately fill the other safety spot. The other cornerback could end up being former tailback Deltha O'Neal, senior Drae Harris or one of the red-shirt freshmen, LaShaun Ward or Jameel Powell.

Special teams: O'Neal was third in the Pac-10 in punt returns (11.8) and fourth in kickoff returns (28.4) last season, and there's every reason to think he'll get better. Punter Nick Harris can use his right foot like a 9-iron to drop the ball near the goal line, but the Bears allowed more return yards on his punts than any

team in the league and finished last in net punting last season. The kicking also was nearly the worst in the league; two kickers combined to make 10 of 19 field-goal attempts and missed four extra-point kicks. Newcomer Jeremy Hershey was recruited to challenge Ignacio Brache.

Schedule: The opener against Rutgers should be a confidence builder before the Bears travel to Nebraska, though Cal gave the Huskers a battle last year. October will be challenging, with a five-game run: trips to Washington State, Brigham Young and



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Heavy load: With so many questions on offense, a successful season and possible bowl bid probably rests with DeLoach and the defense.

UCLA, followed by visits from Washington and Southern California.

Coaching: Besides the addition of White, the Bears hired Steve Hagen to assume offensive coordinator duties from Doug Cosbie, whose attack ranked last in the Pac-10 (292.2 yards per game) in 1998. Hagen talks of throwing downfield often to loosen defenses, which will be a dramatic change: What won't be different is defensive coordinator Lyle Setencich, who has the Bears playing the best defense in the conference.

Outlook: Cal's rugged defense figures to contain most offenses, but can an offense that averaged a Pac-10-low 16.6 points in 1998 and may be directed by a true freshman avoid mistakes? The schedule doesn't help either, so avoiding a sixth straight non-winning season will be difficult.

GOLDEN BEARS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Joel Young	6-2	185	Sr.	Ronnie Davenport	6-2	190	Sr.
T	Reid Diehl	6-4	290	Jr.	Chris Chick	6-5	270	Jr.
G	Brandon Ludwig	6-4	290	So.	Adam Fisher	6-4	275	Fr.
C	John Romero	6-3	310	Sr.	*Russell Wittman	6-4	285	Fr.
G	Kevin Doherty	6-5	295	Sr.	*Brian Gray	6-4	270	Fr.
T	Langston Walker	6-8	335	So.	Robert Truhitte	6-5	290	Jr.
TE	Brian Surgener	6-4	225	Jr.	Corey Smith	6-4	250	So.
WR	Phillip Pipersburg	5-10	185	Jr.	*Michael Ainsworth	6-1	185	Fr.
QB	Samuel Clemons	6-2	210	So.	*David Page	6-1	185	Fr.
RB	Marcus Fields	6-2	210	Jr.	Marcus Oliver	5-11	210	Jr.
FB	Joshua White	5-11	250	Sr.	Saleem Muhammad	6-0	195	So.

DEFENSE

E	Mawuko Tugbenyoh	6-1	245	Sr.	Johnny Jackson	6-4	260	Jr.
T	Jerry DeLoach	6-4	310	Sr.	Tim Pompa	6-4	265	So.
T	Jacob Waasdorp	6-2	270	Jr.	Nate Geldermann	6-1	255	Jr.
E	Andre Carter	6-4	250	Jr.	Jeremiah Parker	6-5	275	Sr.
OLB	Sekou Sanyika	6-4	235	Sr.	Scott Fujita	6-5	235	So.
ILB	Keith Miller	6-2	240	Sr.	Jamaal Cherry	6-3	255	So.
ILB	Matt Beck	6-4	230	Sr.	Juan Jimenez	6-0	210	Jr.
CB	Chidi Iwuoma	5-9	185	Jr.	Drae Harris	5-10	180	Sr.
SS	Damian Marzett	6-0	210	Sr.	*Paul Ugenti	6-0	205	Fr.
FS	Gary Berry	6-0	195	Sr.	David Mitchell	6-1	195	Jr.
CB	Deltha O'Neal	5-11	195	Sr.	*Jameel Powell	6-1	185	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Ignacio Brache	6-0	210	Sr.	P Nick Harris	6-3	215	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

8 Washington State

Site: Pullman

Coach: Mike Price (56-57, 10 years; 103-101 overall, 18 years)

Offensive coordinator: John McDonnell (6th season)

Defensive coordinator: Bill Doba (6th season)

Offensive scheme: Multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 7

Lettermen lost: 14

Lettermen returning: 46

Stadium: Martin (turf, 37,600)

Last league title won: 1997

Last bowl appearance: 1997

1998 TSN rank: 94th

1998 record: 3-8; Pac-10: 0-8 (10th)

1998 RESULTS

Illinois, W 20-13

at Boise State, W 33-21

Idaho, W 24-16

at California, L 24-14

at UCLA, L 49-17

Oregon, L 51-29

So. California, L 42-14

Arizona State, L 38-28

at Arizona, L 41-7

at Stanford, L 38-28

Washington, L 16-9

SCHEDULE

S4—Utah

S11—at Stanford

S18—Idaho

S25—Arizona

O2—California

O9—SW Louisiana

O23—at Arizona State

O30—Oregon State

N6—at Oregon

N13—Southern California

N20—at Washington

N27—at Hawaii

NATIONAL RANK
56

Quarterbacks: The Cougars haven't given up on Steve Birnbaum and Paul Mencke, last year's co-starters. The two combined to throw 25 interceptions, which goes a long way toward explaining why Washington State went from conference champions to winless in the Pac-10. Jason Gesser, a mobile red-

shirt freshman, will be given every chance to emerge. If he and the veterans fail, don't be surprised if true freshman Matt Kegel, a cousin of Ryan Leaf, gets a shot.

Running backs: Kevin Brown rushed for 1,046 yards as a sophomore on a team that didn't present much of a passing threat, so imagine what he might be capable of if teams can't key on him. Brown is a punishing 220-pound runner. If true freshman Deon Burnett can offer a change of pace, the Cougars could take a big load off a freshman quarterback.

Receivers: The Cougars got a big boost when Nian Taylor, who led the team with 45 receptions last year, was granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA. With Leaford Hackett also back and the addition of 6-5 Marcus Williams and 6-3 Milton Wynn, both junior college transfers, the Cougars will be able to use four- and five-receiver sets.

Offensive line: Tackle Ryan Tujague will be a third-year starter. The Cougars have a major rebuilding job around him, which may slow the development of the offense. Joe Criscione and Ryan Raymond figure to fill the guard slots, with returning starters Reed Raymond at one tackle and Lincoln Walden-Schulz at center.

Defensive line: After a season in which they almost ran out of linemen because of injuries, academic problems and defections, the Cougars are loaded. Rob Meier will be at one tackle. The other tackle could be Joey Hollenbeck, a starter until he got hurt last fall, or Ing Aleaga, who would have started if he hadn't been an academic casualty. The Cougars also are deep at end with Eboni Wilson, Mark Hedeon and Jesse Ratcliff. Joining them will be junior college transfers Anthony Adedipe and Melvin Camarena.

Linebackers: All three of last year's starters are back—Steve Gleason, James Price and Brad Philley—but only Gleason is sure to hold his spot. Sophomore Tupu Tuupo, who would have been the centerpiece of the defense last year, is back from an injury, and the Cougars signed junior college star Curtis Holden. Lots of choices and depth, for a change.

Secondary: The Cougars might have the best unit in the league, thanks to safeties Lamont Thompson and Earl Riley. Junior college transfer John Williams might be good enough to supplant Riley at strong safety, or he could play outside linebacker. Cornerback Chris

Martin is a solid cover man, but the other spot needs to be filled by one of last year's reserves, junior college transfer Mory Banks or Riley if he doesn't stay at safety.

Special teams: The Cougars will miss Dee Moronkola, who ranked second in the nation in kickoff returns last year (31.5-yard average). Punter Kareem Anderson and kicker Rian Lindell are back, though each needs to show more consistency. Lindell made 8 of 17 field-goal attempts last fall. Anderson averaged 40.5 yards a punt.



Top secondary: The Cougars have what could be the Pac-10's best defensive backfield, largely because of Thompson, a superb free safety.

Schedule: The Cougars play five of their first six games in Pullman. Of the non-league games, only Utah won't be a sure victory. September ends with a game against Arizona, and trips to Arizona State, Oregon and Washington are almost automatic defeats. At least there's no game against UCLA.

Coaching: The pressure is not on coach Mike Price as much as it is his son, quarterbacks coach Eric, who must solve the quarterback situation. Robb Akey replaced Larry Lewis as defensive line coach. Lewis left to become the coach at Idaho State.

Outlook: The defense should be stronger and the offense can't be worse, so the Cougars should be improved. Anything better than a middle-of-the-pack finish is contingent on whether a quarterback emerges and takes control.

COUGARS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Jerry Roquemore	5-11 187	Sr. Farwan Zubedi	5-9 171	Jr.
T Ryan Tujague	6-6 294	Sr. *Phil Locker	6-5 288	Fr.
G Joe Criscione	6-3 285	Sr. Erik Larson	6-4 268	Jr.
C Lincoln Walden-Schulz	6-4 285	Sr. Mike Schwartz	6-3 295	Sr.
G Ryan Raymond	6-7 313	Jr. *Derrick Roche	6-6 264	Fr.
T Reed Raymond	6-8 316	Jr. *Jason Hughes	6-6 289	Fr.
TE Corey Scott	6-3 245	Sr. *Russell Mizin	6-3 225	Fr.
WR Nian Taylor	6-1 195	Sr. Adam Davis	6-0 164	So.
QB Steve Birnbaum	6-5 225	Sr. Paul Mencke	6-5 229	Jr.
RB Kevin Brown	6-2 218	Jr. Jeremy Thielbahr	6-2 235	So.
SB Leaford Hackett	5-9 174	Sr. *Curtis Nettles	5-7 160	Fr.

DEFENSE

E Austin Matson	6-3 262	Jr. Melvin Camarena	6-2 270	Jr.
T Rob Meier	6-6 282	Sr. *Eric Boose	6-2 284	Fr.
T *Tomasi Kongaika	6-0 295	Fr. Ing Aleaga	6-2 286	So.
E Mark Hedeon	6-6 264	So. Jesse Ratcliff	6-3 262	Sr.
OLB Steve Gleason	5-11 210	Sr. Grady Emmerson	6-0 200	Sr.
MLB Curtis Holden	6-2 232	Jr. James Price	5-11 230	Jr.
OLB Raonall Smith	6-3 245	So. Brad Philley	6-2 215	Jr.
CB LeJuan Gibbons	5-9 175	Sr. *Virgil Williams	6-1 191	Fr.
SS Earl Riley	6-2 218	Sr. Tory Hollimon	5-10 204	Sr.
FS Lamont Thompson	6-2 214	Jr. Billy Newman	5-10 204	So.
CB Chris Martin	5-11 186	Sr. Mory Banks	5-11 185	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Rian Lindell	6-3 245	Sr.	P Kareem Anderson	6-0 199	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold; * Redshirt

9 Oregon State

Site: Corvallis
Coach: Dennis Erickson (first year; 113-40-1 overall, 13 years)
Offensive coordinator: Tim Lappano (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Willy Robinson (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Spread
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 43
Stadium: Parker (turf, 35,362)
Last league title won: 1964
Last bowl appearance: 1964
1998 TSN rank: 54th
1998 record: 5-6; Pac-10: 2-6 (tie 8th)

1998 RESULTS

Nevada, W 48-6
 Baylor, W 27-17
 at So. California, L 40-20
 at Arizona State, L 24-3
 at Utah State, W 20-16
 at Stanford, W 30-23
 Arizona, L 28-7
 at Washington, L 35-34
 California, L 20-19
 UCLA, L 41-34
 Oregon, W 44-41 (OT)

SCHEDULE

S4—at Nevada
 S11—Fresno State
 S18—Georgia Southern
 O2—at Southern California
 O9—Washington
 O16—at Stanford
 O23—UCLA
 O30—at Washington State
 N6—California
 N13—Arizona
 N20—at Oregon

NATIONAL RANK
69

Quarterbacks: Both of last year's starters, senior Terrance Bryant and sophomore Jonathan Smith, return. The latter is likely to be the starter at the outset. Though smaller, Smith is the better deep passer, and the Beavers found out last year that defenses can bunch if the field isn't stretched.

Running back: Ken Simonton in 1998 became Oregon State's first 1,000-yard rusher since 1970 with 1,028, the fourth-highest total in the league. The 5-7 sophomore figures to be just as busy this season. To make sure he doesn't wear down, the Beavers added junior college transfer David Swopes.

Receivers: The offense of new coach Dennis Erickson relies heavily on the pass. The only experienced receiver is senior Roddy Tompkins. Three redshirt freshmen could help, with Shawn Kintner expected to be the most significant contributor. Oregon State went to the junior college ranks for Imani Percoats and T.J. Houshmandzadeh. Another junior college transfer, Bennie Johnson, is likely to be the tight end.

Offensive line: Three starters return. Aaron Koch is back at guard, and left tackle Jason White and center Keith DiDomenico are 300-pounders who are punishing run blockers and adept pass protectors. The Beavers haven't often had the choices they'll have at the other tackle, where redshirt freshman Mike Kuykendall and junior college transfer Mitch White will compete.

Defensive line: It won't be easy to replace ends Inoke Breckterfield and Jamil Braithwaite. Toalei Talataina and junior college transfers DeLawrence Grant and LaDairis Jackson will compete for the positions. The Beavers bulked up inside, signing three junior college transfers who each weigh at least 280 pounds.

Linebackers: Jonathan Jackson, the team's leading tackler last season, returns in the middle. Senior Micah Moore has been a solid backup on the outside and now must step up. This is one area where the Beavers didn't add junior college help. Reserves need to step up and redshirts need to provide depth.

Secondary: Terrence Carroll is a standout at free safety. He may be busy helping all over the field while the Beavers rebuild their defense. Keith Heyward-Johnson returns at one corner. Help is arriving from the junior college ranks in the form of cornerback Terrance Gray and strong safety Chad Carpenter. Those two need to replace four-year lettermen Andrae Holland and Armon Hatcher.

Special teams: Punter Mike Fessler was steady if not spectacular last season, averaging 39.1 yards. True freshman Ryan Cesca will replace kicker Jose Cortez,

who had the league's strongest leg. Oregon State needs to find a replacement for Tim Alexander, who was second in the Pac-10 in kickoff returns and seventh in punt returns last season.

Schedule: The Erickson era should get off to a healthy start, with Nevada, Fresno State and Georgia Southern up first. It gets difficult in October with games with Southern California, Washington and UCLA in a four-week span, though the Huskies and Bruins come to Corvallis.

Coaching: The Beavers went from agony, when



Busy Beaver: That could be Carroll this season, unless some of the newcomers on defense contribute right away.

Mike Riley departed for the San Diego Chargers after two years, to ecstasy, when Erickson came aboard after being fired by the Seattle Seahawks. He's a proven winner, even at out-of-the-way posts like Washington State, Idaho and Wyoming that make Corvallis look like a big city. Most of the assistants have been with Erickson for some time, dating to the national titles he won at Miami (Fla.) in 1989 and '91.

Outlook: The Beavers haven't had a winning season since 1970, though they were three narrow losses from turning last year's 5-6 mark into 8-3. The offensive personnel is in place to win, but it's a stretch to think the defense can develop quickly enough. And can you win with 14 junior college transfers? Probably not the first season they arrive, but things continue to look up.

BEAVERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Roddy Tompkins	6-0 197 Sr.	*Turner Byrd	5-11 173 Fr.
T Jason White	6-5 314 Sr.	Robert Sykes	6-5 327 Jr.
G Jared Cornell	6-2 319 Jr.	Tyler McCloughry	6-3 280 So.
C Keith DiDomenico	6-5 311 Jr.	Chris Gibson	6-3 267 So.
G Aaron Koch	6-3 294 Sr.	*Mark Christensen	6-2 271 Fr.
T Mitch White	6-5 290 Jr.	*Mike Kuykendall	6-6 296 Fr.
TE Martin Maurer	6-4 230 Jr.	Bennie Johnson	6-1 236 Jr.
WR Robert Prescott	5-11 178 Jr.	*Junior Adams	5-9 168 Fr.
QB Jonathan Smith	5-10 177 So.	Terrance Bryant	6-2 203 Sr.
RB Ken Simonton	5-7 181 So.	Eric Mobley	5-10 196 So.
WR T.J. Houshmandzadeh	6-2 205 Jr.	James Newman	6-1 189 Fr.

DEFENSE

E DeLawrence Grant	6-3 241 Jr.	Daniel Torres	6-3 250 So.
T Aaron Wells	6-0 243 Sr.	Charles O'Neal	6-2 288 Jr.
T Shawn Ball	6-0 273 Sr.	Paul Luoma	6-3 263 Sr.
E Toalei Talataina	6-2 233 Sr.	Ryan Atkinson	6-6 263 Jr.
OLB Micah Moore	5-10 212 Sr.	Darnell Robinson	5-11 217 Jr.
MLB Jonathan Jackson	6-2 240 Sr.	Sefa O'Reilly	6-1 235 Jr.
OLB James Allen	6-1 205 So.	Brandon Boice	6-2 234 Sr.
CB K. Heyward-Johnson	5-11 183 Jr.	*Dennis Weathersby	6-1 184 Fr.
SS Terrence Carroll	6-0 213 Jr.	Jake Cookus	5-10 181 So.
FS Calvin Carlyle	5-11 190 So.	Chad Carpenter	5-10 185 Jr.
CB Ricky Walker	5-11 175 Jr.	Shamon Jamerson	5-11 170 Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Ryan Cesca	5-9 175 Fr.	P Mike Fessler	5-10 205 Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

10 Stanford

Site: Palo Alto, Calif.
Coach: Tyrone Willingham (22-23-1, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bill Diedrick (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Kent Baer (1st season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 5
Lettermen lost: 8
Lettermen returning: 46
Stadium: Stanford (grass, 85,500)
Last league title won: 1992 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 75th
1998 record: 3-8; Pac 10: 2-6 (tie 8th)

1998 RESULTS

San Jose State, L 35-23
 Arizona, L 31-14
 North Carolina, W 37-34
 at Oregon, L 63-28
 at Notre Dame, L 33-15
 Oregon State, L 30-22
 at Arizona St., L 44-38 (OT)
 at UCLA, L 28-24
 Southern California, L 34-9
 Washington St., W 38-28
 at California, W 10-3

SCHEDULE

S4—at Texas
 S11—Washington State
 S18—at Arizona
 S25—UCLA
 O2—San Jose State
 O16—Oregon State
 O23—at So. California
 O30—at Washington
 N13—at Arizona State
 N20—California
 N27—Notre Dame

NATIONAL RANK
72

Quarterbacks: Stanford might have three of the best six quarterbacks in the Pac-10, and it used all three last season. Todd Husak took the majority of the snaps and became the third Stanford player to pass for 3,000 yards in a season, leaving Randy Fasani and Joe Borchard as backups or fill-ins at running

back or receiver. They're athletic enough to play at other spots and good enough quarterbacks to start for many teams.

Running backs: Coy Wire, despite missing five games because of injury, led Stanford in rushing last season with 298 yards. Stanford averaged a Pac-10-low 75.5 rushing yards per game. Wire is back, along with Juan-Carlos Lacey, but both are expected to lose the starting job to true freshman Kerry Carter, a 225-pounder from Canada who might help the linemen create running room.

Receivers: Troy Walters will leave school with most of Stanford's receiving records, but he isn't the top returning pass catcher. With Walters limited by an injured ankle last season, DeRonnie Pitts became the main target and made 74 receptions for 1,102 yards. Walters, a diminutive speedster, grabbed 52 passes for 880 yards, and Dave Davis had 48 catches. This is as good a group as there is in the Pac-10.

Offensive line: Center Mike McLaughlin, who has made 34 consecutive starts, is the anchor. There could be shuffling at other spots. Guard Joe Fairchild and tackle Jeff Cronshagen are returning starters, but sophomores Zack Quaccia and Eric Heitmann are ready to play and may push aside the incumbents.

Defensive line: Tackle Willie Howard is one of the league's best run stoppers, but he needs help. Riall Johnson provided it last year, but he's slated to move to outside linebacker. That move will create playing time for promising 290-pound sophomore Matt Leonard, who will provide needed size.

Linebackers: The Cardinal will move Johnson to cover the spot left by the graduation of Donnie Spragan, Stanford's best defensive player last year. Workmanlike inside linebackers Sharcus Steen and Marc Stockbauer are returning starters who offer stability. A big-play maker is needed.

Secondary: Stanford could go with four returning starters but probably won't. Tim Smith will move from free safety to strong safety, with Tank Williams or Aaron Focht assuming Smith's old spot. Chris Johnson and Ruben Carter, the returning starting corner, need to be better or they'll be replaced. Stanford can't allow foes to again complete 57.1 percent of their passes.

Special teams: A healthy Walters returns life to the return game; Stanford ranked eighth in punt returns

and last in kickoff returns in the Pac-10 in '98. The Cardinal need to replace Kevin Miller, who handled punts, field goals and extra points last season. Mike Biselli, last year's backup kicker, should step up, but the search for a punter continues.

Schedule: It's bad enough that Stanford has to open at Texas, but the Cardinal also travels to Arizona and plays host to UCLA before September ends. There are consecutive road games at Southern California, Washington and Arizona State later in the season. A visit by Notre Dame looms in the finale.



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

The anchor: McLaughlin, entering his fourth year as a starter, will challenge for all-league honors. There may be changes elsewhere.

Coaching: Stanford was the Pac-10's worst defensive team last fall, giving up 33.2 points and 443.5 yards per game, and changes were in order. Tyrone Willingham fired Bill Harris as defensive coordinator and promoted Kent Baer to the position. Baer's background as a defensive coach, especially at California and Arizona State, features an attacking style, but the personnel may not fit. The other key change was adding Denny Schuler as secondary coach. His work as defensive coordinator at Oregon earlier this decade was notable for the improvement the Ducks made.

Outlook: Unless a running game is found, the offense will be one-dimensional. The defense should be helped by the coaching changes, but can the same personnel play better? Plus, the schedule makes it unlikely the Cardinal will show progress from last year's 3-8 record.

CARDINAL DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	DeRonnie Pitts	5-11	195	Sr.	Dave Davis	6-0	180	Jr.
T	Jeff Cronshagen	6-7	300	Sr.	Damion Tinsley	6-4	285	Jr.
G	Zack Quaccia	6-4	285	So.	Joe Fairchild	6-5	285	Sr.
C	Mike McLaughlin	6-4	305	Sr.	Joe Fairchild	6-5	285	Sr.
G	Eric Heitmann	6-5	285	So.	Jon Abendschein	6-4	290	Sr.
T	Greg Schindler	6-6	300	So.	Ben Garrison	6-8	275	Jr.
TE	Russell Stewart	6-5	245	Sr.	Matt Wright	6-5	250	Jr.
QB	Troy Walters	5-8	170	Sr.	Dave Davis	6-0	180	Jr.
QB	Todd Husak	6-3	210	Sr.	Randy Fasani	6-4	235	Jr.
RB	Coy Wire	6-0	215	Jr.	Brian Allen	5-10	190	So.
FB	Emory Brock	5-11	215	Sr.	Casey Moore	6-3	220	So.

DEFENSE

E	Sam Benner	6-5	270	Sr.	Matt Leonard	6-4	290	So.
T	Willie Howard	6-4	290	Sr.	Eric Toner	6-5	270	Jr.
NT	Andrew Currie	6-4	270	Sr.	Trey Freeman	6-3	312	So.
E	Marcus Hoover	6-4	260	Jr.	Austin Lee	6-6	260	Jr.
OLB	Riall Johnson	6-3	240	Sr.	Scott Giles	6-4	210	So.
ILB	Sharcus Steen	6-1	235	Sr.	Matt Friedrichs	6-0	230	Jr.
ILB	Marc Stockbauer	6-3	235	Sr.	Mike Burke	6-1	220	Jr.
CB	Chris Johnson	5-11	185	Sr.	Brian Taylor	6-0	180	Fr.
SS	Tim Smith	6-4	230	Sr.	Aaron Focht	5-10	190	Sr.
FS	Tank Williams	6-4	205	So.	Aaron Focht	5-10	190	Sr.
CB	Frank Primus	5-11	190	Sr.	Garry Cobb	6-0	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Mike Biselli	5-10	175	Jr.	P	Sean Tolpinrud	6-2	190	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

PACIFIC-10

1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING (RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD)

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Ypg.
1. Trung Canidate, Arizona, Sr.	11	166	1,225	7.4	10	111.4
2. Chad Morton, Southern California, Sr.	10	188	967	5.1	6	96.7
3. Kevin Brown, Washington State, Jr.	11	215	1,046	4.9	4	95.1
4. Ken Simonton, Oregon State, So.	11	224	1,028	4.6	13	93.5
5. J.R. Redmond, Arizona State, Sr.	10	166	883	5.3	11	88.3
6. Marcus Fields, California, Jr.	11	163	734	4.5	4	66.7
7. DeShaun Foster, UCLA, So.	10	116	635	5.5	10	63.5
8. Jermaine Lewis, UCLA, Jr.	10	120	503	4.2	11	50.3
9. Willie Hurst, Washington, So.	11	149	538	3.6	4	48.9
10. Kelvin Ealon, Arizona	12	146	527	3.6	16	43.9

PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Keith Smith, Arizona, Sr.	12	165	113	.685	7	1,732	10.5	13	174.2
2. Akili Smith, Oregon	11	325	191	.588	7	3,307	10.9	30	170.4
3. Cade McNown, UCLA	11	323	188	.582	10	3,130	9.7	23	156.9
4. Ryan Kealy, Arizona State, Jr.	10	261	150	.575	9	2,161	8.3	19	144.1
5. Todd Husak, Stanford, Sr.	11	447	233	.521	7	3,092	6.9	17	119.6
6. Carson Palmer, So. Calif., So.	12	207	113	.546	6	1,475	7.1	6	118.2
7. Ortege Jenkins, Arizona, Jr.	12	142	70	.493	4	1,011	7.1	5	115.1
8. Brock Huard, Washington	9	315	168	.533	12	1,924	6.1	15	112.7
9. Justin Vedder, California	11	386	210	.544	13	2,322	6.0	11	107.6
10. Steve Birmbaum, Wash. St., Sr.	10	235	114	.485	11	1,677	7.1	6	107.5

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Dameane Douglas, California	11	100	1,150	4	9.1	11.5
2. DeRonnie Pitts, Stanford, Sr.	11	74	1,012	7	6.7	13.7
3. Dane Looker, Washington, Sr.	10	64	662	5	6.4	10.3
4. Troy Walters, Stanford, Sr.	9	52	880	5	5.8	16.9
5. Greg Ainsworth, Oregon State	11	58	749	3	5.3	12.9
6. Dennis Northcutt, Arizona, Sr.	12	63	922	6	5.3	14.6
7. Leaford Hackett, Washington State, Sr.	11	54	680	4	4.9	12.6
8. Jeremy McDaniel, Arizona	12	58	916	9	4.8	15.8
9. Dave Davis, Stanford, Jr.	10	48	707	6	4.8	14.7
10. Tim Alexander, Oregon State	11	52	620	2	4.7	11.9

1998 TEAM STATS

OFFENSE

RUSHING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Arizona (14)	213.4
2. UCLA (29)	188.1
3. Oregon (43)	169.1
4. Arizona State (53)	152.8
5. So. California (74)	139.3
6. Washington (76)	136.5
7. Washington St. (82)	126.6
8. Oregon State (94)	116.0
9. California (110)	79.1
10. Stanford (111)	75.5

PASSING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Stanford (8)	319.6
2. Oregon (11)	309.1
3. UCLA (15)	294.5
4. Arizona State (21)	259.0
5. Oregon State (22)	256.1
6. Washington St. (28)	247.3
7. Arizona (36)	231.5
8. Washington (44)	219.2
9. California (51)	213.1
10. So. California (53)	211.8

TOTAL

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. UCLA (8)	482.6
2. Oregon (10)	478.2
3. Arizona (18)	444.9
4. Arizona State (27)	411.8
5. Stanford (34)	395.2
6. Washington St. (50)	373.9
7. Oregon State (52)	372.1
8. Washington (64)	355.6
9. So. California (68)	351.0
10. California (102)	292.2

RUSHING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Arizona (12)	102.8
2. Washington (31)	131.2
3. California (33)	133.8
4. Oregon State (36)	135.9
5. So. California (43)	142.4
6. Arizona State (53)	148.7
7. Oregon (57)	154.0
8. UCLA (70)	165.5
9. Stanford (84)	180.6
10. Washington St. (86)	183.1

DEFENSE

PASS EFFICIENCY

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. So. California (3)	90.6
2. Arizona (22)	107.8
3. California (26)	109.8
4. Washington St. (44)	115.2
5. UCLA (51)	118.7
6. Oregon State (61)	123.1
7. Oregon (65)	124.0
8. Arizona State (78)	131.0
9. Washington (89)	135.4
10. Stanford (90)	137.2

TOTAL

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. So. California (28)	329.8
2. Arizona (33)	334.9
3. California (37)	340.3
4. Washington St. (71)	387.8
5. Oregon (72)	389.8
6. Oregon State (73)	390.4
7. Washington (88)	402.5
8. Arizona State (90)	406.5
9. UCLA (99)	432.5
10. Stanford (104)	443.5

RECRUITING

1. UCLA: Tight end Mike Seidman, wideout Jerry Owens and line-backer Marcus Reese are the goods. Kicker Nathan Fikse and quarter-back J.P. Losman, who graduated early to enroll in time for spring drills, may play this fall. Bryce Bohlander and Shane Lehmann add to a growing cache of fine offensive linemen. Akil Harris will keep the Bruins deep at running back. Defensive lineman Rodney Leisle may play in '99.

2. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: The Trojans added the receivers (Kareem Kelly, Marcell Almond, Steve Stevenson) and offensive linemen (Lenny Vandermade, Nate Steinbacher, Luke MacKay, Eric Torres) they needed, but they didn't get a tailback. Kicker David Newbury, defensive back DeShaun Hill and linebacker Markus Steele will help now. Everyone wanted defensive lineman Bernard Riley and corner Darrell Rideaux.

3. CALIFORNIA: The Bears signed their best class in years. The gem is quarterback Kyle Boller, who has to like the fact that seven offensive linemen—headed by Mark Wilson and David Hays—were signed. Cornerbacks Atari Callen and Nnamdi Asomugha picked Cal over football factories. Star running back Joe Echema is Asomugha's cousin. Defensive end Wayne Hunter is highly regarded.

4. ARIZONA: The Wildcats aimed higher than usual and generally succeeded. Bobby Wade, the state's top prospect, and Larry Croom add to a deep running back corps. Linebacker Lance Briggs may be the equal of Joe Siofele, another star from Hawaii recruited by Dick Tomey. Brandon Phillips and Cory Kipp are monster defensive linemen. Tight ends Tyrone Brown and Justin Levassuer fill a big need.

5. STANFORD: The Cardinal signed prospects from 11 states and two from Canada, including running back Kerry Carter, the most likely to help right away. Quarterback Chris Lewis has a promising future. Wideout Luke Powell is a burner, and the Cardinals also landed tight ends Darin Naatjes, Brett Pierce and Eran Landry. Cornerback Jim Johnson is the top defensive signee.

6. OREGON: The Ducks filled their need for wideouts with Keenan Howry, Sammy Parker and junior college transfer Marshaun Tucker. Oregon didn't sign as many offensive linemen as it would have liked. Massive defensive tackle James Rose, a junior college transfer, should start this fall. George Wrighter and Josh Rogers could help on offense or defense. Defensive back Ric Cottengim brings needed speed.

7. WASHINGTON STATE: This might be the Cougars' strongest group in years, especially if three lanky offensive linemen develop. Quarterback Matt Kegel, a cousin of Ryan Leaf, could benefit from a solid group of receivers. Linebacker Curtis Holden and wideouts Marcus Williams and Milton Wynn head eight junior college transfers. Running back Deon Burnett and defensive end Isaac Brown are potential stars. Tight end Josh Shavies has coaches excited.

8. ARIZONA STATE: Coming off a losing season, the Sun Devils sought immediate help, and they signed 12 junior college transfers. Among them, Craig Koonz, Monte Franks and Nijrell Eason could strengthen a weak secondary. Running back Delvon Flowers is the top transfer. Three big prep offensive linemen were wooed. Defensive lineman Tony Aguilar was a big catch. Mike Barth may kick this fall.

9. WASHINGTON: There were problems early with a coaching change and late with an NCAA violation. That helps explain the Huskies' small class of 18. They did get two junior college offensive linemen for an area that needs help. Running back Paul Arnold and kicker John Anderson are quality additions. Coaches are excited about quarterback Cody Pickett.

10. OREGON STATE: The Ducks landed 14 junior college transfers. T.J. Houshmandzadeh and Imani Percoats will help "Air Erickson" get launched as go-to receivers. End DeLawrence Grant and most of the other six junior college newcomers on defense will contend for starting roles. Quarterback Shayne House has a big future.

SCOUTING

Pacific-10

Has any coach ever taken a job at a Pac-10 school and created the stir that Rick Neuheisel did when Washington hired him from Colorado to replace ousted Jim Lambright?

It started with a contract that will pay Neuheisel \$1 million a year. While administrators at other schools cringed, the Huskies gloated about being the first to pay a coach that much money. Then Neuheisel and his staff were turned in for a recruiting violation, which Neuheisel immediately termed minor and said wouldn't result in any major penalties. The rest of the league wondered how he came to have such knowledge ahead of an investigation. All the attention on Neuheisel meant that Dennis Erickson, who won two national titles while at Miami (Fla.), could be hired by Oregon State and go almost unnoticed. Now comes Erickson's real task: getting attention by leading the Beavers to their first winning season since 1970.

Ascending: Arizona State will bounce back from a 5-6 season and reach the first division, and possibly threaten Arizona for the conference title. The most improved

from hot to boiling with the addition of Neuheisel, who beat the Ducks twice in bowl games at Colorado and rubbed Oregon the wrong way each time.

Bowl bound: Arizona, UCLA, Arizona State and Southern California are locks. Arizona might be kept out of the Rose Bowl because it could play for the national title in the Sugar Bowl. The league has sent at least five teams to bowls in three of the last four seasons. Oregon, Washington and California are candidates to join the southern four schools in that chase.

Biggest shoes to fill: Those would be the ones left by Cade McNown at UCLA. Drew Bennett may win the position, but don't discount redshirt freshmen Ryan McCann and Cory Paus, as well as true freshman J.P. Losman, who graduated high school early to enroll in college and participate in spring practice.

Most overrated player: For the past two years, TSN has selected Washington tackle Toalei Mulitauaopele as the league's outstanding defensive newcomer. That was about the last mention of him either season. Academics kept him out of Washington in 1997, and poor conditioning kept him out of the lineup in 1998. The Huskies stuck their necks out when they recruited Mulitauaopele out of junior college, considering his involvement in a homicide that resulted in a prison sentence.

Most underrated player: Oregon State tailback Ken Simonton rushed for 1,028 yards as a freshman, third-most in the Pac-10, and didn't receive honorable mention all-league mention. Somebody must have forgotten the 207 yards he ran for against Stanford or the four touchdowns he scored against Oregon.

Best coach: The dean of the conference is Dick Tomey, entering his 13th season at Arizona, and it's about time he was recognized for more than loyalty. With his future in doubt in 1998 as he entered the final year of his contract, Tomey guided the Wildcats to a 12-1 mark and their best poll finish ever. Things should be even better in '99.

Best staff: A slight edge goes to Arizona State over Arizona, though maybe the Sun Devils should beat Arizona more than once every five years or so. The Arizona State staff is intact for a third consecutive year. The Wildcats staff has an aggregate 55 years experience at Arizona.

Coach on the hot seat: Lambright was 44-25-1 in six seasons at Washington. That wasn't good enough to return for a seventh year. Neuheisel stepped into the job saying



Lost in space: Oregon State's eighth-place Pac-10 finish in 1998 hurt Simonton, whose 1,000-yard rushing season went largely unnoticed.

the Huskies program should be on par with the best in the nation. He'll earn his \$1 million this season trying to live up to that prediction, and there won't be much of a honeymoon in Seattle. Further south, Stanford usually has been patient with its coaches, but Tyrone Willingham's 22-23-1 record in four years includes a composite 8-14 mark over the last two seasons, not a trend the Cardinal will allow to continue.

Odds and ends: The position most up in the air around the league is kicker, with seven schools expected to break in a new leg this fall. Half of the schools—Oregon State, Washington, California, UCLA and Arizona State—are counting on true freshmen. ... Forget the home-field advantage when Arizona visits; the Wildcats enter the season with a school-record eight-game winning streak. ... Washington will reach into its past by putting on gold helmets for its opener September 9 at Brigham Young. The Huskies switched to purple helmets during Lambright's six seasons as coach. ... With his hiring as secondary coach at Stanford, Denny Schuler will be working for his fifth team in the Pac-10. He previously worked for Washington, Oregon, California and Oregon State, the latter three as a coordinator. ... The big miss in conference scheduling for this season—and 2000—is Southern California against Washington. There was a time when that was the annual battle for the Rose Bowl, with the Trojans or Huskies combining for 15 berths from 1973-1993. Only once since then, in 1995 when they tied in their game and for the league title, has either as much as shared the Pac-10 title. ... UCLA's 32-14 mark is the Pac-10's best over the past four seasons. Arizona State ranks second with a 31-15 mark. —Bob Clark

UNT RANKINGS

	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBS	DBs	Special Teams
ARIZONA	1	1	5	4	2	7	3
ARIZONA ST.	2	2	7	5	8	8	7
CALIFORNIA	10	6	10	3	1	9	4
OREGON	7	4	3	8	4	5	1
OREGON ST.	5	8	9	10	10	10	10
USC	3	3	4	2	7	1	2
STANFORD	6	10	2	9	9	6	9
UCLA	4	5	1	6	6	4	8
WASHINGTON	8	9	8	1	3	3	6
WASH. ST.	9	7	6	7	5	2	5

team in the league could be Washington State, if the Cougars, 0-8 in the Pac-10 last year, can muster even mediocre quarterbacking.

Descending: Washington rode Brock Huard's passing to six victories last year, but he left early for the NFL. Without a passing attack and no proven runner, it's going to be difficult for the Huskies to outscore foes who figure to again light up a weak secondary.

Best matchup: It should be October 9, when Southern California plays at Arizona, the first time those schools have played since 1996. But for intensity, consider October 2, when Oregon plays at Washington in a rivalry that has moved

BIG 12

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

XII
CONFERENCE
RANK 4

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY KIRK BOHLS, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN STATESMAN AND KURT CAYWOOD, TOPEKA (KAN.) CAPITAL-JOURNAL

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

		Conference			Overall						
		W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.				
North	Kansas State	8-1	375	146	11-2	610	197	77-29-1	.724	3,189	1,698
	Nebraska	5-3	210	139	9-4	403	206	96-15-1	.857	4,426	1,749
	Missouri	5-3	214	156	8-4	334	236	39-60-3	.382	2,305	2,691
	Colorado	4-4	155	169	8-4	302	253	80-24-4	.741	3,273	2,126
	Kansas	1-7	155	269	4-7	280	341	51-50-1	.500	2,539	2,608
	Iowa State	1-7	135	288	3-8	221	328	23-73	.240	2,114	3,133
South	Texas A&M	8-1	227	145	11-3	335	214	86-24-2	.768	3,423	1,747
	Texas	6-2	243	220	9-3	437	337	65-39-2	.613	3,049	2,477
	Texas Tech	4-4	198	189	7-5	315	255	56-48	.538	2,923	2,195
	Oklahoma	3-5	125	198	5-6	184	229	54-46-3	.524	2,541	2,257
	Oklahoma State	3-5	197	218	5-6	303	296	36-61-3	.360	2,002	2,560
	Baylor	1-7	142	239	2-9	195	323	48-53-1	.471	2,412	2,476

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS		SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES non-conference, conference
North	1. NEBRASKA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">QB Bobby Newcombe must avoid injury.Playmakers needed along the line.	QB Bobby Newcombe TB DeAngelo Evans	CB Ralph Brown SS Mike Brown	Sept. 11 vs. California Nov. 6 vs. Texas A&M
	2. COLORADO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ground game needed to ease pressure on QB.Stout line must carry a heavy load.	G Ryan Johanningmeier QB Mike Moschetti	LB Jashon Sykes CB Damen Wheeler	Sept. 4 vs. Colorado State Nov. 26 vs. Nebraska
	3. KANSAS STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Running game needs to take pressure off QB.Strong unit looking for two linebackers.	RB David Allen WR Aaron Lockett	SS Jarrod Cooper LB Mark Simoneau	Sept. 18 vs. Texas-El Paso Nov. 13 at Nebraska
	4. MISSOURI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Playmakers needed at QB and RB.Veteran line needs to cover for young DBs.	C Rob Riti WR Kent Layman	E Justin Smith LB Barry Odom	Oct. 2 at Memphis Oct. 9 at Colorado
	5. KANSAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Three new linemen must make run game go.Passers may thrive against young secondary.	TB David Winbush WR Harrison Hill	LB Dariss Lomax E Dion Rayford	Aug. 28 at Notre Dame Oct. 23 vs. Missouri
	6. IOWA STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">New QB needs to be consistent.Need to become tougher against the run.	TB Darren Davis WR Damien Groce	E Reggie Hayward T James Reed	Sept. 11 vs. Iowa Oct. 16 at Missouri
South	1. TEXAS A&M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Looking for leaders and new left side of line.Deep, veteran line must buffer new LBs.	FB Ja'Mar Toombs TB Dante Hall	P Shane Lechler LB Roylin Bradley	Sept. 25 vs. So. Mississippi Nov. 6 at Nebraska
	2. TEXAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">New RB relying on four new line starters.Veteran crew must get stronger against run.	WR Kwame Cavil QB Major Applewhite	T Casey Hampton E Aaron Humphrey	Sept. 4 vs. Stanford Nov. 26 at Texas A&M
	3. TEXAS TECH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Passing game must take focus off runners.DBs, LBs need to cover for young line.	TB Ricky Williams G Curtis Lowery	FS John Norman T Kris Kocurek	Sept. 4 at Arizona State Oct. 2 vs. Texas A&M
	4. OKLAHOMA STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Receiving corps, line need reinforcing.Improved pass defense is a must.	QB Tony Lindsay TB Nathan Simmons	LB Kenyatta Wright LB Tarrell Knauls	Sept. 18 at Mississippi St. Nov. 27 at Oklahoma
	5. OKLAHOMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must adapt to fourth offense in last four years.Line, LBs must take pressure off shaky DBs.	T Scott Kempenich C Matt O'Neal	SS Oteji Jones LB Brandon Moore	Oct. 2 at Notre Dame Oct. 9 vs. Texas
	6. BAYLOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Big holes on the line and at WR need filling.Line can't continue to be manhandled.	FB Derek Lagway G Chris Watton	CB Gary Baxter LB Kris Micheaux	Sept. 4 at Boston College Sept. 18 at Oklahoma

PROJECTED BIG 12 CHAMPION

NEBRASKA

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Ricky Williams, Texas Tech

And then there was one. One Ricky Williams, that is. And that suits the Texas Tech running back just fine. Williams has the Big 12 stage to himself, now that the Heisman Trophy winner from Texas with the same name has departed for the NFL. Tech's Williams would like to invite even more comparisons during the next two seasons. "This is a chance for me to make a name for myself," he says.

Williams will shoot for the same piece of bronze hardware, would like to lead the Big 12 in rushing and wouldn't mind taking aim at the other Ricky's NCAA career rushing record. Williams watched Williams accept the Heisman on television, but he would prefer to be on camera next December.

"That's a dream come true for any running back," he says. "I think I have a shot at it. I need to rush for 1,900 to 2,000 yards and score more touchdowns. I don't want to sound overconfident, but the team will help get me in position to be a candidate."

Williams could throw his name in the mix early because so many of last year's Heisman candidates are gone. But his numbers—his 1,582 yards ranked him fourth nationally, second in the Big 12 behind you-know-who—might suffer a bit with the return of fullback Sammy Morris and the loss of two line starters.

In two seasons, the 5-9, 195-pound Williams has gained 2,476 yards. He would have to average 174 yards a game to top his Texas counterpart's all-time mark of 6,279. Considering Williams has averaged 112 yards a game, his hopes of becoming the leading rusher in college football history appear ambitious at best. Regardless, he will have the satisfaction of having outrushed Ricky No. 1 in both career meetings. "And we won both games," Williams says. "I do take a little pride in that." —Kirk Bohls

TEXAS TECH

DEFENSE



Jarrod Cooper, Kansas State

Even if he didn't hit with the intimidating force of a Mike Wallace interrogation, college football fans would notice Jarrod Cooper. Even if he wasn't an outstanding safety on one of the best defenses in the nation, Cooper would attract attention. Regardless of whether he is a future NFL prospect or THE SPORTING NEWS' preseason Big 12 defensive player of the year, the Kansas State junior would be turning heads. Partly because of what's on top of his own. It could change tomorrow, but for now, the native of Pearland, Texas, wears his hair in a ponytail that sits atop his scalp like a wheat stack. That hairstyle, combined with his physical nature on the field, has earned him the tag of "Bam-Bam."

The 6-1, 205-pound Cooper is more than just college football's answer to Dennis Rodman, a role model the Wildcats safety admires, to no one's surprise. He doesn't think Rodman is as misunderstood as he is colossally underestimated. "People say you're going to be the Rodman of football," Cooper says. "Whatever. I like the guy. He's a lot smarter than people think." So is Cooper. He understands the essence of marketing—he has seven body piercings, including both sides of his nose, but not a single tattoo, partly to be different. But he's mainly enjoying himself.

Cooper almost got kicked out of a Kansas State summer football camp when a fight broke out in a dorm and a fire extinguisher was thrown out of a window. That's the camp where he got discovered in high school. "He is what I call a true individual," says Phil Bennett, Kansas State's new defensive coordinator. "He marches to a little bit different drum. He plays a little bit out of control, but he's got great vision, great change of direction, and when he gets there, he'll light you up." —Kirk Bohls

CRUISE HACKER FOR TSN

PRESEASON

All-Big 12

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kwame Cavil, Texas	6-2	200	Jr.
WR	Aaron Lockett, Kansas State	5-5	160	So.
TE	Marcellus Rivers, Oklahoma State	6-4	225	So.
T	Adam Julch, Nebraska	6-5	320	Sr.
T	Jonathan Gray, Texas Tech	6-5	350	Jr.
G	Curtis Lowery, Texas Tech	6-5	325	Sr.
G	Adam Davis, Oklahoma State	6-3	285	Sr.
C	Rob Riti, Missouri	6-3	285	Sr.
QB	Major Applewhite, Texas	6-1	195	So.
RB	Ricky Williams, Texas Tech	5-9	195	Jr.
RB	Darren Davis, Iowa State	5-8	190	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Darren Howard, Kansas State	6-4	270	Sr.
E	Aaron Humphrey, Texas	6-3	255	Sr.
T	Damion McIntosh, Kansas State	6-4	290	Sr.
T	Casey Hampton, Texas	6-1	300	Jr.
LB	Kenyatta Wright, Oklahoma State	6-1	245	Sr.
LB	Jashon Sykes, Colorado	6-3	225	So.
LB	Roylin Bradley, Texas A&M	6-1	221	Jr.
CB	Ralph Brown, Nebraska	5-10	180	Sr.
CB	Damen Wheeler, Colorado	5-10	175	Sr.
S	Jarrod Cooper, Kansas State	6-1	205	Jr.
S	Lamar Chapman, Kansas State	6-0	180	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Kris Stockton, Texas	5-9	185	Jr.
P	Shane Lechler, Texas A&M	6-2	220	Sr.
KR	David Allen, Kansas State	5-9	185	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Damien Groce, Iowa State	5-10	182	Sr.
WR	Chris Cole, Texas A&M	6-0	186	Sr.
TE	Kyle Allamon, Texas Tech	6-3	256	Sr.
T	Leonard Davis, Texas	6-6	350	Jr.
T	Andy Vincent, Texas A&M	6-3	301	Sr.
G	Semisi Heimuli, Texas A&M	6-2	303	Sr.
G	Ryan Johanningmeier, Colorado	6-7	310	Sr.
C	Dominic Raiola, Nebraska	6-2	295	So.
QB	Mike Moschetti, Colorado	6-0	195	Sr.
RB	Dante Hall, Texas A&M	5-8	190	Sr.
RB	Nathan Simmons, Oklahoma State	5-10	205	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Kyle Vanden Bosch, Nebraska	6-4	270	Jr.
E	Justin Smith, Missouri	6-5	267	So.
T	Kris Kocurek, Texas Tech	6-5	295	Jr.
T	Justin Bannan, Colorado	6-3	300	So.
LB	Cornelius Anthony, Texas A&M	6-0	224	Jr.
LB	Kyle Shipley, Texas Tech	6-2	235	Sr.
LB	Mark Simoneau, Kansas State	6-0	240	Sr.
CB	Mike Woods, Oklahoma	5-10	188	Sr.
CB	Gary Baxter, Baylor	6-1	198	Jr.
S	Mike Brown, Nebraska	5-10	205	Sr.
S	Onite Jones, Oklahoma	5-11	191	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Chris Birkholz, Texas Tech	6-0	190	Jr.
P	Kyle Atteberry, Baylor	6-0	174	Sr.
KR	Joe Walker, Nebraska	5-10	195	Jr.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Josh Heupel, QB, Oklahoma
Defense: Warren Lott, LB, Kansas State

BIG 12

1 Nebraska

Site: Lincoln
Coach: Frank Solich (9-4, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: Frank Solich (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Charlie McBride (18th season)
Offensive scheme: I formation
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 4
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 58
Stadium: Memorial (turf, 72,700)
Last league title won: 1997
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1968
1998 TSN rank: 25th
1998 record: 9-4 (lost to Arizona in Holiday Bowl); Big 12 North: 5-3 (tie 2nd)

1998 RESULTS

Louisiana Tech, W 56-26
 Ala.-Birmingham, W 38-7
 at California, W 24-3
 Washington, W 55-7
 Oklahoma State, W 24-17
 at Texas A&M, L 28-21
 Kansas, W 41-0
 Missouri, W 20-13
 Texas, L 20-16
 at Iowa State, W 42-7
 at Kansas State, L 40-30
 Colorado, W 16-14
 Arizona, L 23-21

SCHEDULE

S4—at Iowa
 S11—California
 S18—So. Mississippi
 S25—at Missouri
 O2—Oklahoma State
 O9—Iowa State
 O23—at Texas
 O30—at Kansas
 N6—Texas A&M
 N13—Kansas State
 N26—at Colorado

NATIONAL RANK
6

Quarterback: Whether it was Bobby Newcombe's torn knee ligaments or Eric Crouch's hip pointer and pulled hamstring, quarterback was a troubled position for Nebraska last year. With both healthy, Nebraska has two starters for one spot, and it probably will go to Newcombe. No one knows better

than the Cornhuskers how important a third quarterback can be. That would have been a problem had not Jeff Perino, a senior who took two medical hardship years after three knee surgeries, been granted one more season.

Running backs: Little has changed at I-back, for better or worse. Nebraska slid all the way to sixth in the nation in rushing last year (*sixth*) and while all three I-backs are back, they still are not healthy. DeAngelo Evans' career has been rocked by injuries, and Dan Alexander, who started two games, missed spring practice because of a torn knee ligament. Correll Buckhalter was the only I-back who stayed healthy last year, and while he carried the biggest part of the load, he's not the caliber of ballcarrier to which the Huskers are accustomed. At fullback, three-year starter Joel Makovicka will be replaced by Willie Miller or Ben Kingston, who also are battling injuries.

Receivers: Nebraska loses starters at all three receiving positions but returns its leading receiver. Matt Davison caught 32 passes for 394 yards last season, more receptions than any Husker since Irving Fryar caught 40 in 1983. Tight end Tracey Wistrom played in all 13 games last year. Converted quarterback Frankie London, who missed spring practice because he was recuperating from a broken leg, is the likely starter at wingback.

Offensive line: As a group, the offensive linemen decided to spend the offseason meeting at 7 a.m. four days a week to work out. Now the Huskers have a bigger, more experienced crew up front that includes five with starting experience. Tackles Adam Julch and Jason Schwab were full-time starters last season. The middle is less settled. Dominic Raiola, a two-game starter at guard, takes over for All-Big 12 center Josh Heskeu.

Defensive line: Nebraska faces its biggest job of reconstruction up front on defense, where three of four starters are gone. Loran Kaiser is back at one tackle spot, and Steve Warren has some starting experience at nose tackle. Kyle Vanden Bosch takes over at rush end for Chad Kelsay, and Aaron Wills moves to left end, where he will make his first start as Mike Rucker's replacement.

Linebackers: This is a solid unit, as nine lettermen return. Carlos Polk moves into the middle, where Jay

Foreman was a three-year starter. Tony Ortiz started nine games and Brian Shaw four on the strong side last year, and Eric Johnson started every game on the weak side.

Secondary: The Fabulous Brown Boys lead a deep and experienced group. Ralph Brown, a three-year starter at cornerback, owns Nebraska records for passes broken up in a game (seven), a season (14) and a career (35). Rover Mike Brown led the team in tackles last year with 102, and free safety Clint Finley had three interceptions in an injury-shortened season.



Still waiting: Evans' running ability has been overshadowed by his injuries. He has played 14 games in three seasons at Nebraska.

Special teams: Dan Hadenfeldt has two big shoes to fill. He has to step in for Kris Brown, who set nearly every Nebraska kicking record, and Bill Lafleur, who set the school record for punting average. Kick returner Joe Walker missed spring practice because of a knee injury but should be ready for the season.

Schedule: A season-opening trip to Iowa highlights the non-conference schedule. The toughest road tests in the conference will come at Texas and Colorado.

Coaching: With his team racked by injury, Frank Solich had a 9-4 record in his first season as the successor to Nebraska legend Tom Osborne. Osborne said he couldn't have done any better.

Outlook: Nebraska isn't the steam-rolling machine it was in the middle of the 1990s, but it's still the team to beat in the North Division, if not the league.

CORNHUSKERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Matt Davison	6-1	180	Jr.	Craig Fischer	6-0	175	Sr.
T	Adam Julch	6-5	320	Sr.	Dave Volk	6-5	295	So.
G	James Sherman	6-4	295	Sr.	Jon Rutherford	6-3	295	So.
C	Dominic Raiola	6-2	295	So.	Matt Baldwin	6-2	285	Sr.
G	Russ Hochstein	6-3	280	Jr.	Jon Rutherford	6-3	295	So.
T	Jason Schwab	6-1	300	Sr.	Kyle Kollmorgen	6-5	290	So.
TE	T.J. DeBates	6-3	250	Sr.	Tracey Wistrom	6-5	220	So.
WR	Shevin Wiggins	5-11	200	Sr.	John Gibson	6-0	180	Jr.
QB	Bobby Newcombe	6-0	195	Jr.	Eric Crouch	6-1	195	So.
RB	DeAngelo Evans	5-9	215	Jr.	Correll Buckhalter	6-0	220	Jr.
FB	Willie Miller	6-1	240	Jr.	Ben Kingston	6-1	240	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Aaron Wills	6-2	250	Sr.	Chris Kelsay	6-5	255	So.
T	Steve Warren	6-2	315	Sr.	Jason Lohr	6-2	275	So.
T	Loran Kaiser	6-4	290	Jr.	Jeremy Slichta	6-6	280	So.
E	Kyle Vanden Bosch	6-4	270	Jr.	*J.P. Wichmann	6-4	220	Fr.
OLB	Tony Ortiz	6-1	220	Sr.	Brian Shaw	6-1	220	Sr.
MLB	Carlos Polk	6-2	250	Jr.	Ben Buettgenback	5-11	220	Sr.
OLB	Eric Johnson	6-1	205	Sr.	Julius Jackson	6-1	240	Sr.
CB	Erwin Swiney	6-0	185	Jr.	Keyuo Craver	5-10	190	So.
SS	Mike Brown	5-10	205	Sr.	Joe Walker	5-10	195	Jr.
FS	Clint Finley	6-0	205	Jr.	Greg McGraw	6-2	200	Sr.
CB	Ralph Brown	5-10	180	Sr.	*Mike Demps	5-10	195	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	*Josh Brown	6-2	185	Fr.	P	Dan Hadenfeldt	5-11	195	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

2 Colorado

Site: Boulder

Coach: Gary Barnett (first year; 43-56-2 overall, 9 years)

Offensive coordinator: Tom Cable (1st season)

Defensive coordinators: Vince Okruch and Tom McMahon (1st season)

Offensive scheme:

Multiple

Defensive scheme: 3-4

Starters lost: 8

Lettermen lost: 16

Lettermen returning: 57

Stadium: Folsom Field (grass, 51,808)

Last league title won: 1991 (Big Eight)

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997

1998 TSN rank: 27th

1998 record: 8-4 (beat Oregon in Aloha Bowl); Big 12 North: 4-4 (4th)

1998 RESULTS

Colorado State, W 42-14

Fresno State, W 29-21

Utah State, W 25-6

Baylor, W 18-16

at Oklahoma, W 27-25

Kansas State, L 16-9

Texas Tech, W 19-17

at Kansas, L 33-17

at Missouri, L 38-14

Iowa State, W 37-8

at Nebraska, L 16-14

Oregon, W 51-43

SCHEDULE

S4—Colorado State

S11—San Jose State

S18—Kansas

S25—at Washington

O9—Missouri

O16—at Texas Tech

O23—at Iowa State

O30—Oklahoma

N6—at Kansas State

N13—at Baylor

N26—Nebraska

NATIONAL
RANK
12

Quarterbacks: Mike Moschetti, apparently recuperated from the constant beating he took as a junior, likely will be back under center. But new coach Gary Barnett, who vows to rebalance an offense that became increasingly pass-heavy, has options. Redshirt freshman Taylor Barton is expected to be

next in line for the starting job. Adam Bledsoe, Drew's little brother, was solid at times in his numerous relief appearances last season.

Running backs: Everyone on the depth chart was hurt at one time or another in 1998, which was part of the reason the Buffaloes averaged just 123.2 rushing yards a game. Dwayne Cherrington, Damion Barton and Cortlen Johnson each started at tailback but none were consistent. Redshirt freshman Brandon Drumm is the only scholarship player listed at fullback.

Receivers: The Buffaloes always seem to have great wide receivers. They lost Darrin Chiaverini, but senior Marcus Stiggers and sophomore Javon Green are back. Sophomore Cedric Cormier was a breakaway threat until he suffered a torn ACL, and Robert Toler and Roman Hollowell also showed flashes. The depth chart will include two wide receiver spots instead of three, and look for as many as four on the field at times. Senior Brody Heffner Liddiard, used in a hybrid fullback-end spot last year, will return to full-time duty at tight end.

Offensive line: Last year Colorado was young up front, and a spate of injuries caused so much shuffling that positions changed weekly. Ryan Johanningmeier started at three spots; as a senior he's penciled in at weak guard, flanked by sophomores Victor Rogers on the left and Andre Gurode at center, who have talent if not experience. The Buffs still were banged up in the spring, but with two seniors on the right side—tackle Shane Cook and guard Brad Bedell—they ought to be OK if they ever get healthy.

Defensive line: This bunch was adequate last year, and everyone is back. Senior Jesse Warren established himself as the leader inside as last season progressed. Junior Brady McDonnell started 10 games plus the Aloha Bowl at end.

Linebackers: Senior Fred Jones led the Buffs in sacks last year and tied with junior Ian Loper for the lead in quarterback pressures, but Loper may not be ready due to a back injury. Inside, rising star Jashon Sykes and Ty Gregorak are back, but he'd better stay healthy because Colorado has only freshmen and walk-ons backing him up.

Secondary: Damien Wheeler and Ben Kelly are fast, no-nonsense cornerbacks who combined for 39 pass breakups and five interceptions last year. Free safety

Rashidi Barnes should be fully recovered from the torn knee ligament that slowed him as a junior. John Sanders started nine games at strong safety last year, but his career is over because of a spinal cord injury. The likely candidates to replace him are sophomore Albus Brooks, who moved back to his original position after a try at outside linebacker, and junior college transfer Robbie Robinson.

Special teams: The speedy Kelly and his punt-return mates ranked third in the country last year. Senior Jeremy Aldrich is poised to become the Buffs'



Two-fer: Kelly has excelled as both a cornerback and kick returner. Last season he was named first-team all-league at both.

all-time leader in field goals, and punter Nick Pietsch improved drastically as a junior, averaging 41.5 yards.

Schedule: Colorado State is a red-hot rivalry, but even that will be overshadowed when the Buffaloes travel to Washington three weeks later and face former coach Rick Neuheisel.

Coaching: A seven-year Colorado assistant under Bill McCartney, Barnett retained two Neuheisel assistants—offensive coordinator Tom Cable and tight ends coach Jon Embree—and hired three others with Colorado ties in an effort to help foster a sense of stability the program has lacked.

Outlook: With 57 returning lettermen and the hiring of Barnett, the Buffaloes will challenge for the Big 12 North title. But unless a consistent running game is developed, the Buffs will struggle.

BUFFALOES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	John Minardi	6-2	185	So.	Robert Toler	6-0	200	Sr.
T	Victor Rogers	6-7	315	So.	Kane Cullum	6-5	315	Sr.
G	Ryan Johanningmeier	6-7	310	Sr.	Chris Morgan	6-3	305	Sr.
C	Andre Gurode	6-4	310	So.	Martin Simmons	6-3	310	Sr.
G	Brad Bedell	6-5	310	Sr.	*Justin Bates	6-4	290	Fr.
T	Shane Cook	6-7	310	Sr.	Kane Cullum	6-5	315	Sr.
TE	Daniel Graham	6-3	235	So.	Miles Koon	6-5	265	So.
WR	Marcus Stiggers	5-7	180	Sr.	Javon Green	6-2	195	Jr.
QB	Mike Moschetti	6-0	195	Sr.	*Taylor Barton	6-3	205	Fr.
RB	Dwayne Cherrington	5-10	195	Sr.	Cortlen Johnson	5-9	190	So.
FB	*Brandon Drumm	6-2	215	Fr.	*Beau Williams	6-3	225	Fr.

DEFENSE

DT	Sean Jarne	6-6	290	Jr.	Jesse Warren	6-4	275	Sr.
NT	Justin Bannan	6-3	300	So.	*Joel Harris	6-3	275	Fr.
E	Brady McDonnell	6-4	265	Jr.	*Tyler Brayton	6-6	260	Fr.
OLB	Fred Jones	6-3	245	Sr.	*James Weingardt	6-1	225	Fr.
ILB	Ty Gregorak	6-3	240	Jr.	David Andrews	6-3	240	So.
ILB	Jashon Sykes	6-3	225	So.	Scott Nemeth	6-2	225	So.
OLB	Robert Haas	6-5	245	So.	*Drew Wahroos	6-3	225	Fr.
CB	Damen Wheeler	5-10	175	Sr.	*Donald Strickland	5-10	175	Fr.
SS	Albus Brooks	6-0	190	So.	Michael Lewis	6-2	200	So.
FS	Rashidi Barnes	6-0	190	Sr.	Terrence Wood	5-10	175	So.
CB	Ben Kelly	5-10	185	Jr.	Nate Wright	6-0	180	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jeremy Aldrich	5-11	170	Sr.	P	Nick Pietsch	6-0	195	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

3 Kansas State

Site: Manhattan
Coach: Bill Snyder (77-39-1, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ron Hudson (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Rex Ryan (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 14
Lettermen lost: 25
Lettermen returning: 35
Stadium: KSU (turf, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1934 (Big Eight)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1992
1998 TSN rank: 12th
1998 record: 11-2 (lost to Purdue in Alamo Bowl); Big 12 North: 8-1 (1st, lost to Texas A&M in league championship game)

1998 RESULTS

Indiana State, W 66-0
 Northern Illinois, W 73-7
 Texas, W 48-7
 NE Louisiana, W 62-7
 at Colorado, W 16-9
 Oklahoma State, W 52-20
 Iowa State, W 52-7
 at Kansas, W 54-6
 at Baylor, W 49-6
 Nebraska, W 40-30
 at Missouri, W 31-25
 Texas A&M, L 36-33 (OT)
 Purdue, L 37-34

SCHEDULE

S11—Temple
 S18—Texas-El Paso
 S25—at Iowa State
 O2—at Texas
 O9—Kansas
 O16—Utah State
 O23—at Oklahoma State
 O30—Baylor
 N6—Colorado
 N13—at Nebraska
 N20—Missouri

NATIONAL RANK
23

Quarterback: If Jonathan Beasley were following anyone else, this picture would look bright. Beasley has to replace Heisman Trophy runner-up Michael Bishop. Beasley, who lettered as a backup in 1996 and '97, redshirted last season and has two seasons to make the position his own. Ell

Roberson, a Bishop clone, is waiting in the wings.
Running backs: All-America punt returner David Allen will replace school career rushing leader Eric Hickson at tailback. Allen averaged 5.1 yards a carry last season. Frank Murphy needs to hang on to the ball if he's to live up to his potential; he was the 1997 national junior college player of the year. Johnno Lazetich, a transfer from Oregon State, is the favorite to replace Brian Goolsby at fullback.

Receivers: As a freshman, Aaron Lockett ranked second on the team to All-Big 12 pick Darnell McDonald with 44 catches and 928 receiving yards. Lockett is one of only two receivers on this year's team who caught a pass last season. Brandon Clark, another sophomore, is the other. He and junior college transfer George Williams will compete for the other spot. Junior Shad Meier and sophomore Nick Warren must step up at tight end.

Offensive line: Kansas State has ranked among the nation's leaders in rushing the last two seasons; it's going to take some work to stay there. Damion McIntosh, a two-year starter on defense, spent more than half of spring practice taking snaps at offensive tackle. Sophomore Thomas Barnett, selected a third-team All-American by TSN last year, was excluded from the spring depth chart and had to work his way back up. Junior Milford Stephenson is another candidate. Center Randall Cummins returns after starting 13 games last year. Senior Ian Moses will man one guard spot; the other guard likely will be sophomore Andy Eby.

Defensive line: The Wildcats were first in the Big 12 and 10th in the nation last year against the rush, and the foundation of that defense returns. If McIntosh moves to offense, it will be because senior Nilijah McCoy, who sat out 1998 because of a blood clot in his leg, and junior Anthony Bates can adequately man a tackle spot. At end, senior Darren Howard is an All-America candidate and junior Monty Beisel is a dominating presence. The recruits include junior college All-America end Cliff Holloman.

Linebackers: Mark Simoneau, an All-Big 12 pick and second-team All-American, is back at one outside spot. The Wildcats have to replace All-American Jeff Kelly and all-conference selection Travis Ochs. Sophomore Ben Leber gained experience last season

when he stepped into the inside spot for the injured Kelly. Senior Travis Litton is the leading candidate to replace Ochs at an outside position.

Secondary: All four starters are back. Strong safety Jarrod Cooper was All-Big 12 and second-team All-America. Free safety Lamar Chapman was All-Big 12. Jerametrius Butler was a second-team freshman All-American. Junior Dyshod Carter started 12 games.

Special teams: As a freshman in 1996, Jamie Rheem handled the kicking duties all season because All-American Martin Gramatica was recovering from a



STEVE NEBERT

Bigger load: With some key offensive performers from last season gone, the Wildcats will need more from Allen this season.

knee injury. Three years later, Rheem will get the job again. Sophomore Mike Ronsick and freshman Travis Brown will replace school career punting leader James Garcia. Allen returns as an All-America punt returner.

Schedule: Kansas State's non-conference schedule is annually the butt of jokes, and this year's scrums with Temple, Texas-El Paso and Utah State will do little to stop the guffaws. Trips to Texas, Oklahoma State and Nebraska are the biggest Big 12 hurdles.

Coaching: Bill Snyder's reclamation project reached its zenith last year; the Wildcats came within an overtime loss of playing for the national title. Snyder's quest continues with four new assistants.

Outlook: The defense may have to carry the offense for a while, but those expecting a dramatic fall-off from Kansas State's recent success will be disappointed.

WILDCATS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Aaron Lockett	5-5	160	So.	Quincy Morgan	6-2	207	Jr.
T	Milford Stephenson	6-2	275	Jr.	*Chris Bailes	6-6	270	Fr.
G	Ian Moses	6-3	290	Sr.	Ryan Cummings	6-4	280	Jr.
C	Randall Cummins	6-3	285	Jr.	Dan Divilbiss	6-1	270	So.
G	Andy Eby	6-3	280	So.	*Steve Washington	6-4	320	Fr.
T	John Roberson	6-4	280	So.	Dennis Jones	6-7	300	So.
TE	Shad Meier	6-3	250	Jr.	Nick Warren	6-7	240	So.
WR	Brandon Clark	6-3	220	So.	Martez Wesley	5-11	175	Jr.
QB	Jonathan Beasley	6-1	215	Jr.	Adam Helm	6-3	220	Sr.
RB	David Allen	5-9	185	Jr.	Frank Murphy	6-1	205	Sr.
FB	Johnno Lazetich	6-1	240	Jr.	Ryan Payne	6-0	235	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Monty Beisel	6-3	235	Jr.	Chris Johnson	6-1	240	Jr.
T	DeVane Robinson	6-1	270	So.	Eric Everly	6-6	315	So.
T	Damion McIntosh	6-4	290	Sr.	Nilijah McCoy	6-3	290	Sr.
E	Darren Howard	6-4	270	Sr.	*Melvin Williams	6-4	240	Fr.
OLB	Travis Litton	6-2	240	Sr.	Da'Von Brame	6-2	220	Jr.
MLB	Ben Leber	6-3	240	So.	Turelle Williams	6-0	230	Jr.
OLB	Mark Simoneau	6-0	240	Sr.	Jason Kazar	6-0	215	Jr.
CB	Jerametrius Butler	5-9	180	So.	Adrian Beard	5-8	180	Jr.
SS	Jarrod Cooper	6-1	205	Jr.	Milton Proctor	6-0	195	So.
FS	Lamar Chapman	6-0	180	Sr.	Jon McGraw	6-3	190	So.
CB	Dyshod Carter	5-10	175	Jr.	*Terence Newman	5-11	170	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jamie Rheem	6-1	185	Jr.	P	Mike Ronsick	6-2	205	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

4 Missouri

Site: Columbia
Coach: Larry Smith (26-31-1, 5 years; 136-111-7 overall, 22 years)

Offensive coordinator: Jerry Berndt (6th season)

Defensive coordinator: Moe Ankney (6th season)

Offensive scheme: Multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 13

Lettermen lost: 21

Lettermen returning: 49

Stadium: Memorial (grass, 68,174)

Last league title won: 1969 (Big Eight)

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996

1998 TSN rank: 24th

1998 record: 8-4 (beat West Virginia in Insight.com Bowl; Big 12 North: 5-3 (tie 2nd))

1998 RESULTS

Bowling Green, W 37-0
 Kansas, W 41-23
 at Ohio State, L 14-35
 Northwestern St., W 35-14
 at Iowa State, W 35-19
 Oklahoma, W 20-6
 at Nebraska, L 13-20
 at Texas Tech, W 28-26
 Colorado, W 38-14
 at Texas A&M, L 14-17
 Kansas State, L 25-31
 West Virginia, W 34-31

SCHEDULE

S4—Alabama-Birmingham
 S18—Western Michigan
 S25—Nebraska
 O2—at Memphis
 O9—at Colorado
 O16—Iowa State
 O23—at Kansas
 O30—Texas Tech
 N6—at Oklahoma
 N13—Texas A&M
 N20—at Kansas State

NATIONAL RANK 50

Quarterbacks: Larry Smith wanted to come out of spring practice with his top two quarterbacks in place, but a decision on Corby Jones' replacement was tabled as Kirk Farmer, Jim Dougherty and Ryan Douglass battled to a stalemate. Whoever gets the job is expected to concentrate more on the pass than

Jones, who was an outstanding option quarterback.

Running backs: It might not take a village to replace tailback Devin West, but the Tigers probably will use a committee. Senior DeVaughn Black, sophomore Zain Gilmore and junior Ricardo Rhodes will share the carries, at least early. Rob West returns at fullback after starting six games as a junior.

Receivers: What the Tigers lack in experience at quarterback they make up at wideout. Senior Kent Layman needs 116 yards to move into the Missouri top 10 for receiving yards. Junior John Dausman, who has 4.3 speed, averaged 20 yards on 18 catches last year. Sophomores Dwayne Blakley and Brandon Ford man the tight end spot.

Offensive line: Missouri lost four line starters. The only one back is senior center Rob Riti, an All-Big 12 pick. Jeff Hellerstedt started five games at left guard because of an injury, and Aaron Crittendon started in the Insight.com Bowl at a tackle spot. Justin Bland, a highly regarded recruit a year ago, is penciled in at the other tackle position. Adrian Cole may end up winning the right guard spot.

Defensive line: Award winners man the defensive front. Big 12 defensive freshman of the year Justin Smith returns at end, and Insight.com Bowl defensive MVP Jeff Marriott is back at nose tackle. Steve Erickson will start at tackle. Pat Mingucci is expected to ease seamlessly into the guard spot vacated by All-Big 12 selection Justin Wyatt.

Linebackers: Senior Barry Odom is all but certain to crack the Missouri top 10 for tackles this season from his strongside position. Jamonte Robinson, who ranked third on the team in stops last year, is back for his sophomore season on the weakside. Redshirt freshman Michael Clay will back up Odom.

Secondary: Three of four starters are gone in the secondary. Senior cornerback Carlos Posey, who scored three TDs last year, is the lone returnee. Junior Julian Jones takes over at free safety. The other two positions are unsettled. Redshirt freshmen Antoine Duncan and John McPherson will compete at the other corner. Clarence Jones and Harold Hendricks are the top candidates at strong safety.

Special teams: The kicking game cost Missouri three games last year. Smith awarded both the kicking and punting duties on a week-by-week basis. For better or worse, nearly everyone returns. Brian Long is expected to handle field goals and extra points, and Brad Hammerich the kickoffs. Alexander St. Peter will battle Vince Sebo, who has worked on changing from a three-step to a two-step drop, for punting chores.

Schedule: With the exception of trips to Colorado and Kansas State, the Tigers get their stiffest tests at



Case closed: Larry Smith says Riti is the best center in college football, and after the senior-to-be's stellar '98 season, who's to argue?

home. The non-conference schedule, a killer in years past, features confidence-builders Alabama-Birmingham, Western Michigan and Memphis.

Coaching: Smith, in his sixth year at Missouri, is one of two active coaches who has taken four schools to bowl games—Lou Holtz is the other. Missouri has been to a bowl each of the last two seasons. Smith's staff has been stable; five original members remain. The new guy this season, Brian Stewart, may have the toughest job: molding a young secondary into an effective unit.

Outlook: After years in the doldrums, Missouri has a legitimate Division I-A program again. Questions exist, especially at quarterback, but it would be a surprise if the Tigers did not play in a bowl game for a third consecutive season.

TIGERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	John Dausman	6-1	184	Jr.	Kareem Wise	6-3	216	Sr.
T	Aaron Crittendon	6-5	280	So.	Joe Glauberman	6-3	282	Jr.
G	Jeff Hellerstedt	6-4	300	So.	*Wes Wilson	6-4	295	Fr.
C	Rob Riti	6-3	285	Sr.	Mike Hayes	6-3	296	So.
G	Mike Hayes	6-3	298	So.	Adrian Cole	6-4	306	So.
T	Justin Bland	6-6	315	So.	Brad Smith	6-6	294	Sr.
TE	Dwayne Blakley	6-4	256	So.	Brandon Ford	6-3	245	So.
WR	Kent Layman	5-11	185	Sr.	Eric Spencer	6-1	165	So.
QB	Jim Dougherty	6-4	190	So.	*Kirk Farmer	6-5	216	Fr.
TB	DeVaughn Black	5-11	203	Sr.	Zain Gilmore	6-1	205	So.
FB	Rob West	6-0	240	Sr.	*T.J. Leon	6-0	215	Fr.

DEFENSE

E	Justin Smith	6-5	267	So.	Daryl Whittington	6-6	227	Jr.
NT	Jeff Marriott	6-5	288	Sr.	Chris Ryan	6-3	284	So.
T	Steve Erickson	6-4	280	Sr.	Terrell Jurineack	6-4	275	Sr.
G	Pat Mingucci	6-2	271	Sr.	*Cedric Harden	6-3	283	Fr.
OLB	Pat Duffy	6-1	236	Jr.	Danny McCamy	6-3	264	Jr.
ILB	Jamonte Robinson	6-2	210	So.	*Josh O'Neal	6-1	228	Fr.
ILB	Barry Odom	6-0	229	Sr.	*Michael Clay	6-3	255	Fr.
CB	Carlos Posey	6-0	202	Sr.	Andre Roberson	5-10	172	Jr.
SS	Clarence Jones	6-1	180	So.	Harold Hendricks	6-3	215	Jr.
FS	Julian Jones	5-11	189	Jr.	J.R. Romine	6-1	225	So.
CB	*John McPherson	5-11	175	Fr.	*Antoine Duncan	5-10	190	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Brian Long	5-11	205	So.	P	Alexander St. Peter	6-2	185	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

5 Kansas

Site: Lawrence
Coach: Terry Allen (9-13, 2 years; 84-39 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bill Salmon (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Ardell Wiegandt (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 46
Stadium: Memorial (turf, 50,250)
Last league title won: 1968 (Big Eight)
Last bowl appearance: 1995
1998 TSN rank: 79th
1998 record: 4-7; Big 12 North: 1-7 (tie 5th)

NATIONAL RANK
79

Quarterback: This position is critical to the Jayhawks' success. Returning starter Zac Wegner, who ranks 10th in career passing at the school but never has seemed to make the offense his own, suffered concussions in back-to-back games last season. Wegner practiced in the spring, but this year's hope may lie

with Dylon Smith, a highly regarded junior college transfer who did not arrive until summer. Smith faces a steep learning curve but could hold the key to a successful season.

Running backs: With nearly everyone back, the Jayhawks again are varied in skill but small in stature. Junior tailback David Winbush fell just short of 1,000 yards rushing last season. Kansas will try again to make full use of senior Mitch Bowles, who is slightly bigger than Winbush and has the best speed and hands in the backfield.

Receivers: Wideout is the Jayhawks' marquee position. Junior Termaine Fulton is a proven breakaway threat; sophomore Harrison Hill has the best hands of the bunch; and Byron Gasaway showed as a true freshman why he was considered the star of Terry Allen's second recruiting class. At tight end, Jason Gulley is primarily a blocker, and redshirt freshman David Hurst appears to be talented.

Offensive line: Center Chris Enneking and guard Dameon Hunt are the only regulars back, but Kansas seems to have a big, deep pool from which to man the other spots. Four returnees—guards Chuck Jarvis and Marc Owen, center Bob Schmidt and tackle Bob Smith—got plenty of work last season. John Odonetto should help at guard, and Nick Smith is a strong contender at tackle.

Defensive line: All six letter winners return—for better or worse, considering Kansas has yet to stop the run under Allen. Nose tackles John Williams and Nate Dwyer need to plug the middle, and ends Dion Johnson and Dion Rayford have to be more consistent.

Linebackers: All four starters are gone, but that may not be bad. The new group, while not as experienced, appears speedier and more athletic. Dariss Lomax, who would have started last year had he not been forced into an academic redshirt, should anchor the inside. Andrew LeClair and Marcus Rogers endured trials by fire as freshmen, as did outside linebacker Algie Atkinson. Junior Tim Bowers is the heir apparent at the other outside spot.

Secondary: Cornerback Andrew Davison made his share of freshman mistakes, but he also impressed with his ball sense and speed. Muhammad Abdul-Rahim, who started six games as a junior, is battling for the other corner spot. Free safety belonged to Chad

Coellner for 10 games last year, until Greg Erb started the season finale. Coellner will compete with Matt Jordan at free safety.

Special teams: Joey Pelfanio had won the punting job last year when Kansas officials discovered two weeks before the season opener that one of his junior college math classes wouldn't transfer. Pelfanio earned the needed credits and is back in school. Joe Garcia returns for his third season as the Jayhawks' kicker. Henri Childs again will return punts.

Schedule: Adding a trip to Notre Dame for the Eddie



PAUL NISSELY / TSN

1999 edition: At 5-7 and 175 pounds, Winbush is the latest in a long line of small, fast and productive Kansas running backs.

Robinson Classic boosted Kansas' power rating—not that it needed any help. The Jayhawks play host to Nebraska and travel to Kansas State, Colorado and Texas A&M. Kansas has seven home games, but with the 12th game it has to win seven to qualify for a bowl bid.

Coaching: Allen, who is a skillful game-day coach, dropped two assistants, promoted grad assistant Jay Johnson to coach quarterbacks and hired Ted Gilmore away from Wyoming to handle tight ends. Darrell Wyatt, whose recruiting performance a year ago earned him the assistant head coach title, did it again this year with a huge haul out of Texas.

Outlook: Kansas has questions at a bunch of positions and answers at several, but it's not too much of a stretch to say that the Jayhawks will be as good as their quarterback, whoever he is.

JAYHAWKS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Harrison Hill	5-11	185	So.	*Anton Paige	6-5	205	Fr.
T	Bob Smith	6-4	285	So.	*Gabe Rosalis	6-5	290	Fr.
G	Dameon Hunt	6-2	310	Sr.	Marc Owen	6-3	305	Jr.
C	Chris Enneking	6-4	285	Sr.	Bob Schmidt	6-1	280	Jr.
G	John Odonetto	6-5	285	Jr.	Jason Steverson	6-1	285	So.
T	Justin Hartwig	6-4	295	So.	Chuck Jarvis	6-6	300	Jr.
TE	*David Hurst	6-3	245	Fr.	Jason Gulley	6-3	255	Jr.
WR	Termaine Fulton	5-10	188	Jr.	Byron Gasaway	6-4	185	So.
QB	Zac Wegner	6-2	220	Sr.	Jay Alexander	6-2	200	Jr.
RB	David Winbush	5-7	175	Jr.	Mitch Bowles	5-8	190	Sr.
FB	Moran Norris	6-2	245	Jr.	Tyrus Fontenot	5-8	230	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Dion Johnson	6-4	290	Sr.	Jeremy Hanak	6-6	250	Sr.
NT	Nate Dwyer	6-3	300	So.	John Williams	6-2	300	Sr.
E	Dion Rayford	6-3	260	Sr.	*Justin Sands	6-7	275	Fr.
OLB	Tim Bowers	6-0	220	Jr.	Chaz Murphy	6-4	252	Jr.
ILB	Andrew LeClair	6-6	235	So.	Scott Rogers	6-2	235	Jr.
ILB	Dariss Lomax	6-2	230	Jr.	Marcus Rogers	6-1	235	So.
OLB	Algie Atkinson	6-5	225	So.	Victor Bullock	6-2	250	Jr.
CB	Quincy Roe	5-9	180	So.	M. Abdul-Rahim	6-0	185	Jr.
SS	Greg Erb	6-0	185	Sr.	Kareem High	5-10	200	Jr.
FS	Chad Coellner	6-0	200	Sr.	*Matt Jordan	5-10	185	Fr.
CB	Andrew Davison	5-11	195	So.	Jahmal Wright	5-8	180	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Joe Garcia	6-0	175	Jr.	P	Joey Pelfanio	6-1	205	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

6 Iowa State

Site: Ames
Coach: Dan McCarney (9-35, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Pete Hoener (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: John Skladany (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 44
Stadium: Jack Trice (grass, 43,000)
Last league title won: 1912 (Big Eight)
Last bowl appearance: 1978
1998 TSN rank: 100th
1998 record: 3-8; Big 12 North: 1-7 (tie 5th)

1998 RESULTS

Texas Christian, L 31-21 at Iowa, W 27-9
 Ball State, W 38-0
 Texas Tech, L 31-24 at Texas, L 54-33
 Missouri, L 35-19 at Kansas State, L 52-7 at Oklahoma, L 17-14
 Nebraska, L 42-7 at Colorado, L 37-8
 Kansas, W 23-20

SCHEDULE

S2—Indiana State
 S11—Iowa
 S18—at UNLV
 S25—Kansas State
 O2—at Nebraska
 O16—at Missouri
 O23—Colorado
 O30—Texas
 N6—at Texas Tech
 N13—Oklahoma
 N20—at Kansas

NATIONAL RANK
85

Quarterbacks: Todd Bandhauer is gone after a record-setting career—he threw for more touchdowns and seemingly absorbed more hits than anyone else in Cyclones history—and the biggest question Iowa State faces is how to replace him. Junior Sage Rosenfels lettered twice as

Bandhauer's backup and has in size (6-4, 220) what he lacks in experience. Redshirt freshman Ben Dougherty and Derrick Walker, who followed Michael Bishop as a two-year starter at Blinn (Texas) College, also will compete for the spot.

Running backs: In each of the last four years, Iowa State has had an all-conference tailback named Davis. All-American Troy Davis had back-to-back 2,000-yard rushing seasons. His brother, Darren, the more elusive of the two, this season can become the first player in school history to rush for 1,000 yards three years in a row. Fullback Joe Parmentier is gone after four years of blocking for the brothers, to be replaced by Jerome Heavens, who returns after missing 1998 because of academic deficiencies.

Receivers: Last year coach Dan McCarney was worrying about how to replace Ty Watley and Ed Williams. As it turned out, Watley and Williams were eclipsed by Damien Groce, an All-Big 12 pick, and Chris Anthony, who combined for 89 catches, 1,130 yards and nine touchdowns. Both are back. Tight end Andy Stensrud caught 25 passes for 421 yards and two TDs in his first two years.

Offensive line: Youth belies Iowa State's experience up front. Ben Beaudet, the Cyclones' best lineman as a sophomore in 1997, moved from right guard and started six games at right tackle last season before he was sidelined by a concussion. He's the center this year. Marcel Howard, who missed spring practice while recovering from a concussion, will end up winning a tackle spot, and fifth-year senior Bill Marsau the other. Ben Bruns started 10 games at one guard spot as a sophomore, and Ryan Gerke, who started three games, is penciled in on the other side.

Defensive line: It was a momentous occasion last year when tackle James Reed was named to the All-Big 12 third-team, because the Cyclones' defense has been horrendous for a long time. In 1998, they ranked 103rd in the country against the run. If they're ever going to improve, that has to change. Reed could help, as could junior Reggie Hayward, an honorable mention all-league pick as a sophomore whom Iowa State is promoting as an awards candidate.

Linebackers: Senior Dave Brcka, who has been a team captain since he was a sophomore, will lead a veteran group of linebackers that includes Jesse

Beckom, the 1998 Big 12 defensive newcomer of the year, and Ab Turner, an 11-game starter last year.

Secondary: Strong safety Jeff Waters, who led Iowa State in tackles last year, is one of eight defensive backs with game experience. Free safety Dustin Avey, who started 11 games a year ago and has 115 career tackles, is a junior. The corners—junior Breon Ansley and Javon Daniels—have been tried by fire and should be improved.

Special teams: Carl Gomez, who ranks among Iowa State's all-time top 10 punters, returns for his senior



Safe predictions: Another all-Big 12 performance by Darren Davis is likely, but it's not likely to prevent another losing season in Ames.

season. The hole is at kicker; sophomore Mike McKnight is the favorite to replace Jamie Kohl, who finished his career as the school's fourth-leading scorer.

Schedule: The Cyclones have a manageable non-conference schedule: I-AA Indiana State, Iowa and UNLV. The problem will be traveling to Nebraska, Missouri and Texas Tech in the Big 12.

Coaching: McCarney has done everything but win in four years at Iowa State. He received a vote of approval last year after the Cyclones beat Iowa and later won their season finale for the first time in a decade.

Outlook: Provided they find a quarterback, the Cyclones ought to be better. The problem is, you can get better in the Big 12 North and it might not show in victories.

CYCLONES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Chris Anthony	6-3	198	Jr.	Michael Brantley	6-0	190	Sr.
T	Bill Marsau	6-5	294	Sr.	*Travis Atkins	6-3	303	Fr.
G	Ben Bruns	6-3	300	Jr.	Adam Sansale	6-3	300	So.
C	Ben Beaudet	6-4	291	Jr.	T.J. Tuetken	6-4	269	Sr.
G	Ryan Gerke	6-4	300	Sr.	Brian Donahue	6-4	271	So.
T	Cory Hannen	6-4	300	So.	Marcel Howard	6-5	302	So.
TE	Andy Stensrud	6-7	227	Jr.	Mike Banks	6-4	249	So.
WR	Damien Groce	5-10	182	Sr.	J.J. Moses	5-6	173	Jr.
QB	Sage Rosenfels	6-4	220	Jr.	Derrick Walker	6-2	228	Jr.
TB	Darren Davis	5-8	190	Sr.	Ennis Haywood	5-10	209	So.
FB	Hez Jackson	6-0	236	Sr.	Jerome Heavens	5-9	230	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Reggie Hayward	6-5	241	Jr.	James Elmore	6-2	246	Sr.
T	James Reed	6-0	277	Jr.	Nigel Tharpe	6-4	289	Jr.
NG	Ryan Harklau	6-3	271	Jr.	George Cunningham	6-6	275	So.
E	Kevin DeRonde	6-5	255	So.	Robert Brannon	6-3	293	So.
OLB	Jim Morse	6-1	224	Jr.	Ab Turner	6-0	212	Jr.
MLB	Dave Brcka	6-2	243	Sr.	Eric Weiford	6-0	204	Jr.
OLB	Jesse Beckom	6-0	209	Sr.	Andy Moser	5-10	228	So.
CB	Jamarcus Powers	5-9	175	Sr.	Ryan Sloth	5-8	182	Jr.
SS	Jeff Waters	6-2	184	Sr.	Doug Densmore	5-10	200	Jr.
FS	Dustin Avey	6-3	210	Jr.	Jason Parrott	6-1	194	Sr.
CB	Breon Ansley	5-6	172	Jr.	Javon Daniels	6-0	170	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Mike McKnight	6-3	207	So.	P	Carl Gomez	6-2	201	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

1 Texas A&M

NATIONAL RANK
8

Site: College Station
Coach: R.C. Slocum (94-28-2, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Kragthorpe (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Hankwitz (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 44
Stadium: Kyle Field (grass, 80,000)
Last league title won: 1998
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 10th
1998 record: 11-3 (lost to Ohio State in Sugar Bowl); Big 12 South: 8-1 (1st, beat Kansas State in Big 12 championship game)

1998 RESULTS

Florida State, L 23-14
Louisiana Tech, W 28-7
at So. Mississippi, W 24-6
North Texas, W 28-9
at Kansas, W 24-21
Nebraska, W 28-21
at Baylor, W 35-14
Texas Tech, W 17-10
at Oklahoma State, W 17-6
Oklahoma, W 29-0
Missouri, W 17-14
Texas, L 26-24
Kansas St., W 36-33 (OT)
Ohio State, L 24-14

SCHEDULE

S4—at Louisiana Tech
S18—Tulsa
S25—So. Mississippi
O2—at Texas Tech
O9—Baylor
O16—Kansas
O23—at Oklahoma
O30—Oklahoma State
N6—at Nebraska
N13—at Missouri
N26—Texas

Quarterback: With Brannndon Stewart gone, Randy McCown gets the job as much by default as by defeating opponents in six of the seven games he started last season. The injury-prone senior threw only one interception in his last three games, but passed for only six TDs all season, the second-fewest by any

Big 12 starter. Strong-armed redshirt Vance Smith or Mark Farris—who arrived in College Station after five seasons of minor league baseball—will be the backup.

Running backs: Eight yards against Texas and 113 yards against Kansas State defines the career of the hot-and-cold Dante Hall, who had four 100-yard games last year. He also catches about one pass every other game, which is too few for him. Sophomore full-back Ja'Mar Toombs is a 260-pound wrecking ball who splattered more people with his blocking than his ball-carrying last year. The return of academic casualty Tiki Hardeman gives A&M another backfield force.

Receivers: Chris Cole and Leroy Hodge are solid, but neither senior is capable of breaking open a game. Chris Taylor does have potential as a go-to receiver. Acrobatic redshirt freshman Bethel Johnson can figure into a three-receiver rotation. The Aggies must find a tight end from the trio of RoDerrick Broughton, Michael de la Torre and Greg Porter.

Offensive line: The Aggies have to replace two linemen who made 54 career starts between them. Veteran guard Semisi Heimuli and promising sophomore center Seth McKinney missed spring practice because they were recovering from surgery. Tackles Andy Vincent and Shea Holder are serviceable, and guard Chris Valletta made great strides last year.

Defensive line: A&M is looking for some R&R up front. Opponents won't get any rest or recreation when they go against nose guard Ron Edwards and defensive ends Rocky Bernard and Ronald Flemons. Although none has shown he can dominate, they routinely funnel the action to the linebackers. This group could benefit from the arrival of blue-chip freshman Ty Warren.

Linebackers: No one can replace Dat Nguyen and his 517 career tackles, but junior Roylin Bradley and sophomore Cornelius Anthony—who combined for 12 sacks last year—are more than capable of becoming stars in A&M's linebacker-featured defense. A heavier Jason Glenn, younger brother of New York Jets cornerback Aaron Glenn, will compete with Christian Rodriguez, whose pass defense had been suspect. Run-stuffer Amon Simon, speedy Brian Gamble and senior Chad Frantzen are vying for the other position.

Secondary: With the return of senior cornerbacks Jason Webster and Sedrick Curry, A&M will rely on

more man-to-man coverage. Curry and free safety Brandon Jennings accounted for seven of the 15 interceptions compiled by the nation's 15th-ranked pass defense last season. Mike Jameson offers a lot of intensity and capacity for big plays at strong safety, but Ronald Patton, who has strong leadership qualities, has not conceded the position.

Special teams: The Aggies are set with Shane Lechler, who averaged 43.6 yards a punt last season, and Russell Bynum, who made 16 of 20 field-goal attempts. Bynum did miss three from inside 40 yards.



DARREN CARROLL FOR TSN

Rocky road: Bernard and his defensive linemates like to make runners feel unwelcome near the line of scrimmage. Usually, they do.

Taylor is a capable kick returner.

Schedule: A&M won't get much of a test from Louisiana Tech, Tulsa or Southern Mississippi. The Aggies have difficult road trips to Texas Tech, Nebraska and Missouri.

Coaching: Under fire for not winning the big game, R.C. Slocum polished his star last year when A&M upset Kansas State and won the school's first Big 12 championship a week after a loss to Texas. For a change, Slocum didn't lose his coordinators, affording the staff some continuity.

Outlook: Texas A&M has played in the last two conference title games and has an excellent chance to stretch that streak to three. The Aggies have won at least nine games in eight of the last nine years. That's another streak that will be stretched.

AGGIES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Chris Cole	6-0	186	Sr.	Bethel Johnson	6-0	175	So.
T	Andy Vincent	6-3	301	Sr.	*Michael Mahan	6-6	285	Fr.
G	Semisi Heimuli	6-2	303	Sr.	*Taylor Whitley	6-5	315	Fr.
C	Seth McKinney	6-3	293	So.	Toby McCarthy	6-2	283	Jr.
G	Chris Valletta	6-2	306	Jr.	*Billy Yates	6-3	270	Fr.
T	Shea Holder	6-5	304	Sr.	Tango McCauley	6-4	290	So.
TE	*Michael de la Torre	6-4	225	Fr.	RoDerrick Broughton	6-2	266	Jr.
WR	Leroy Hodge	6-2	204	Sr.	Chris Taylor	5-10	176	Jr.
QB	Randy McCown	6-1	210	Sr.	*Vance Smith	6-5	225	Fr.
RB	Dante Hall	5-8	190	Sr.	Eric Bernard	5-8	190	Sr.
FB	Ja'Mar Toombs	6-1	260	So.	*Jesse Hunnicutt	6-4	220	Fr.

DEFENSE

E	Rocky Bernard	6-3	269	Jr.	Lonnie Madison	6-3	250	So.
NG	Ron Edwards	6-3	262	Jr.	Evan Perroni	6-5	270	So.
E	Ronald Flemons	6-5	247	Jr.	Terry Nichols	6-0	253	So.
OLB	Jason Glenn	6-0	220	Jr.	Christian Rodriguez	6-2	231	So.
ILB	Cornelius Anthony	6-0	224	Jr.	Sean Coryatt	6-0	215	Sr.
ILB	Chad Frantzen	6-2	210	Jr.	Amon Simon	6-1	229	So.
OLB	Roylin Bradley	6-1	221	Jr.	Chris Thierry	6-2	221	Sr.
CB	Jason Webster	5-10	178	Sr.	Reggie Waddell	5-10	170	Jr.
SS	Michael Jameson	5-10	179	Jr.	Jeremy Weisinger	6-2	210	Sr.
FS	Brandon Jennings	6-1	191	Sr.	Ronald Patton	5-9	192	Jr.
CB	Sedrick Curry	6-2	192	Sr.	Jay Brooks	5-9	180	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Russell Bynum	5-9	176	Jr.	P	Shane Lechler	6-2	220	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

2 Texas

NATIONAL RANK
17

Site: Austin

Coach: Mack Brown (9-3, 1 year; 95-77-1 overall, 15 years)

Offensive coordinator: Greg Davis (2nd season)

Defensive coordinator: Carl Reese (2nd season)

Offensive scheme: I-formation

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 10

Lettermen lost: 24

Lettermen returning: 40

Stadium: Memorial (grass, 79,437)

Last league title won: 1996

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997

1998 TSN rank: 18th

1998 record: 9-3 (beat Mississippi State in Cotton Bowl); Big 12 South: 6-2 (2nd)

1998 RESULTS

New Mexico St., W 66-36
at UCLA, L 49-31
at Kansas State, L 48-7
Rice, W 59-21
Iowa State, W 54-33
Oklahoma, W 34-3
Baylor, W 30-20
at Nebraska, W 20-16
Oklahoma State, W 37-34
at Texas Tech, L 42-35
Texas A&M, W 26-24
Mississippi State, W 38-11

SCHEDULE

A28—North Carolina State
S4—Stanford
S11—at Rutgers
S18—Rice
S25—at Baylor
O2—Kansas State
O9—Oklahoma*
O23—Nebraska
O30—at Iowa State
N6—at Oklahoma State
N13—Texas Tech
N26—at Texas A&M
*at Dallas

Quarterbacks: Sophomore Major Applewhite could be the best quarterback in the league, but he'll have to prove it without a Heisman Trophy winner in the backfield. Applewhite passed for more than 200 yards in 10 straight games last year, a school record, but he needs to improve his decision-making (11

interceptions). Texas has only one other quarterback who has taken a college snap. The Longhorns like the potential of freshmen Chris Simms and Adam Hall.

Running backs: Redshirt freshman Victor Ike or junior Hodges Mitchell will replace Ricky Williams. Mitchell, the smaller of the two, looked elusive and quicker in spring practice, while the longer, leaner Ike appeared more explosive. No one is dismissing freshman Kenny Hayter as a legitimate candidate. Ricky Brown might be the best fullback in the Big 12.

Receivers: Flanker Kwame Cavil is a star-in-waiting. The split end spot remains vacant after neither Ryan Nunez nor Montrell Flowers won the job in spring practice. Flowers did show a burst on a TD pass in the spring game, and Nunez has experience. Tight end is a troublesome spot; passive senior Chris Smith and sophomore Mike Jones have been inconsistent. Recruits Bo Scaife and Chad Stevens are highly regarded.

Offensive line: Four starters are gone, but this could be a fine unit. Senior Roger Roesler at left guard is very underrated, junior left tackle Leonard Davis shared time as a starter in 1998, and junior center Marcel Blanchard will not be much of a dropoff. Right guard Antwan Kirk-Hughes is projected as a future All-American. At right tackle, sophomore Mike Williams is more adept at run blocking while junior Cory Queye is the better pass protector.

Defensive line: Texas' front line could be among the conference's best. Casey Hampton, Shaun Rogers, Cedric Woodard and rapidly emerging redshirt freshman Miguel McKay will split time at tackle. Aaron Humphrey is at one end. Woodard could move outside, as he did at times last season, if junior J.J. Kelly, sophomore Jermain Anderson or true freshman Cole Pittman does not produce.

Linebackers: For once, this should not be a barren position. Although middle linebacker Anthony Hicks missed spring practice, he should be fully recovered from knee surgery, allowing speedy De'Andre Lewis to move back outside. Senior Aaron Babino, the defensive MVP of the Cotton Bowl, is back, but he'll have to contend with Tyrone Jones. With Everick Rawls, Marcus Wilkins and Louisiana State transfer Adam McConathy emerging, the Longhorns will have some speed and depth on this unit.

Secondary: Texas is solid at safety, curious at cor-

nerback. Free safety Quentin Jammer broke up 10 passes and had 81 tackles last season. Big, swift Lee Jackson has edged out returning starter Donald McCowen at strong safety. Junior Joe Walker, who suffered torn knee cartilage in the spring, and sophomores Ervis Hill and Ahmad Brooks could get cricks in their neck from all the deep passes the corners likely will have to defend.

Special teams: Kris Stockton won two games with last-second field goals last season and eventually surrendered the punting chores to Ryan Long, who will



STEVE HERBERT FOR TSN

Longtime Longhorn: Humphrey has been Texas' most productive defensive player since first starting as a true freshman in 1996.

try to hold off freshman Shane Hudnall. Mitchell and Nunez should return kicks.

Schedule: Only five of Texas' 1999 opponents had winning records last season, and none won its bowl game. Texas added the Black Coaches Association game with North Carolina State to give it a sixth home game and a meatier schedule.

Coaching: This group must be doing something right. Second-year coach Mack Brown got two pay raises in his first season and pay hikes for his assistants, all of whom have turned down opportunities at other schools within the past year.

Outlook: Unlike last year, the defense will have to carry the offense in the early going. Applewhite, Cavil and Stockton are capable of making the offense explosive. A 10-win season is possible.

LONGHORNS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Kwame Cavil	6-2	200	Jr.	Jamel Thompson	6-0	180	Jr.
T	Leonard Davis	6-6	350	Jr.	Joe Hubbard	6-4	310	Jr.
G	Roger Roesler	6-5	300	Sr.	Corey Bradford	6-1	296	So.
C	Marcel Blanchard	6-4	300	Jr.	Matt Anderson	6-4	300	So.
G	Antwan Kirk-Hughes	6-3	320	So.	Matt Anderson	6-4	300	So.
T	Cory Queye	6-6	315	Jr.	Mike Williams	6-6	339	So.
TE	Chris Smith	6-5	252	Sr.	Mike Jones	6-4	245	So.
WR	Ryan Nunez	5-9	174	Sr.	Montrell Flowers	5-9	175	Sr.
QB	Major Applewhite	6-1	195	So.	Chris Simms	6-5	210	Fr.
TB	Hodges Mitchell	5-7	190	Jr.	*Victor Ike	5-11	189	Fr.
FB	Ricky Brown	6-0	222	Sr.	Chris Robertson	6-1	196	So.

DEFENSE

E	Aaron Humphrey	6-3	255	Sr.	Maurice Gordon	6-1	225	So.
T	Casey Hampton	6-1	300	Jr.	Brandon Nava	6-3	250	Sr.
E	Cedric Woodard	6-3	280	Sr.	Shaun Rogers	6-4	305	Jr.
LB	Jermain Anderson	6-3	207	So.	J.J. Kelly	6-2	237	Jr.
OLB	Tyrone Jones	6-4	210	So.	Marcus Wilkins	6-2	215	So.
MLB	De'Andre Lewis	6-1	225	So.	Anthony Hicks	6-0	232	Sr.
OLB	Everick Rawls	6-1	216	So.	*Jamal Joyner	6-2	180	Fr.
CB	Ervis Hill	5-9	178	So.	Ahmad Brooks	5-8	165	So.
SS	Lee Jackson	6-3	193	So.	Donald McCowen	6-0	205	Jr.
FS	Quentin Jammer	6-1	180	Jr.	Greg Brown	6-2	200	Jr.
CB	Chris Butcher	6-0	191	Sr.	Terril Dillon	5-8	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Kris Stockton	5-9	185	Jr.	P	Ryan Long	6-1	190	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

3 Texas Tech

Site: Lubbock
Coach: Spike Dykes (76-62-2, 12 years)
Offensive coordinator: Rick Dykes (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: John Goodner (5th season)
Offensive scheme: Offset

Defensive scheme: 4-4
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 49
Stadium: Jones (turf, 50,500)
Last league title won: 1994 (tie, Southwest)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 46th
1998 record: 7-5 (lost to Mississippi in Independence Bowl); Big 12 South: 4-4 (3rd)

1998 RESULTS

Texas-El Paso, W 35-3
 at North Texas, W 30-0
 Fresno State, W 34-28
 at Iowa State, W 31-24
 Baylor, W 31-29
 Oklahoma State, W 24-17
 at Colorado, L 19-17
 at Texas A&M, L 17-10
 Missouri, L 28-26
 Texas, W 42-35
 at Oklahoma, L 20-17
 Mississippi, L 35-18

SCHEDULE

S4—at Arizona State
 S11—at SW Louisiana
 S18—North Texas
 O2—Texas A&M
 O9—at Oklahoma State
 O16—Colorado
 O23—at Baylor
 O30—at Missouri
 N6—Iowa State
 N13—at Texas
 N20—Oklahoma

NATIONAL RANK
31

Quarterbacks: Rob Peters wasn't even the highest-rated quarterback on his team last year—senior Matt Tittle was—but he threw only four interceptions in 183 passes and rushed for 125 yards. Kliff Kingsbury, a redshirt freshman and the only other scholarship quarterback on the team last spring, has an

accurate arm and a heady presence.
Running backs: After rushing for 1,582 yards and scoring 13 touchdowns last season, Tech's Ricky Williams can now say unequivocally he's the best Ricky Williams in the Big 12. Oddly enough, even though he finally has that stage to himself, he might have to share it with Sammy Morris, who has sat out the last two seasons because of academic problems. Morris looked impressive in the spring. Jonathan Hawkins, last year's starting fullback, is mending from January shoulder surgery.

Receivers: The staff loves the speed and big-play ability of Derek Dorris, who could shift from flanker to split end and replace Donnie Hart. All three of Dorris' touchdowns last season came in the final two games. The 6-5 Tim Baker, 6-2 Darrell Jones and 6-2 Dee Jackson make for large targets, and 6-3 senior Kyle Allamon could emerge as the best tight end in the league.

Offensive line: Tech is downsizing in an effort to improve its downfield blocking and pick up blitzes better, but this group isn't exactly in need of a buffet. It averages 315 pounds. The left side of tackle Jonathan Gray, guard Curtis Lowery and center Kyle Sanders will be among the conference's best. Dan Martin should assume right guard, and Steve McFadden will try to hold off Matt Heider at tackle.

Defensive line: Without All-American Montae Reagor at end, the Red Raiders will be hard-pressed to duplicate last year's success unless Taurus Rucker finds another level and 220-pound former linebacker Devin Lemons gets by on quickness at the other end. Senior Terry Patton is the nose tackle, and all-league defensive tackle Kris Kocurek is solid. Four redshirt freshmen, including Aaron Hunt and highly regarded Terrance Colquitt, will contribute soon.

Linebackers: Only four Big 12 players had more tackles last season than the 112 of Kyle Shipley, who is surrounded by a pair of undersized but active mates in 205-pound Keith Cockrum and 230-pound Tim Duffie. Dorian Pitts also figures in the rotation. Redshirt freshmen Rusty Bucy, Lawrence Flugence and Paul Howard should get plenty of playing time.

Defensive backs: With no impact cornerbacks in the incoming class, the Red Raiders will have to make do with former walk-on Oscar Solis and new starter

Anthony Malbrough, who has speed and may need it to outrun his mistakes. Strong safety John Norman could shift to linebacker if Kevin Curtis, the only true freshman to play last season, develops quickly. Raiderback Reagan Bownds has to get the most out of his 190 pounds.

Special teams: Chris Birkholz earned a scholarship last year after making 16 of 21 field-goal attempts, including a 53-yarder against Texas. Senior walk-on Brian Roberson averaged only 39.3 yards a punt and had two blocked; he could lose his job to walk-on Eric



Increased attention: Rucker had a productive season in '98, and he will draw a lot more double-teams without Reagor around.

Rosiles or Peters. Norman is a terrific return man.

Schedule: Tech has only five home games, just two in the last five weeks of the season. Non-conference foes Arizona State, Southwestern Louisiana and North Texas were a combined 10-23 last season.

Coaching: After Tech lost five of its last six games last season, including a 35-18 defeat by Mississippi in the Independence Bowl, Spike Dykes and his staff came under fire. Expectations of a major bowl bid are rising as fast in Lubbock as the heat on the media-friendly Dykes.

Outlook: Texas Tech has historically overachieved, winning enough games to be bowl-eligible the last six years. But losses in three of its last four bowl games and a scholarship reduction to 80 because of NCAA sanctions have fans antsy.

RED RAIDERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Tim Baker	6-5	210	Jr.	Darrell Jones	6-2	200	So.
T	Jonathan Gray	6-5	350	Jr.	Paul Erickson	6-4	279	So.
G	Curtis Lowery	6-5	325	Sr.	John DePasquale	6-4	299	Jr.
C	Kyle Sanders	6-2	305	So.	Anthony Patricio	6-2	298	Sr.
G	Dan Martin	6-4	320	Sr.	Jason May	6-4	300	So.
T	Matt Heider	6-5	306	So.	Steve McFadden	6-4	330	Jr.
TE	Kyle Allamon	6-3	256	Sr.	Tim Winn	6-4	249	Sr.
WR	Derek Dorris	6-2	200	Jr.	Dee Jackson	6-2	200	Jr.
QB	Rob Peters	6-3	235	Sr.	Kliff Kingsbury	6-4	200	Jr.
TB	Ricky Williams	5-9	195	Jr.	Rickey Hunter	5-11	190	Jr.
FB	Sammy Morris	6-0	220	Sr.	Toby Shain	5-11	215	Fr.

DEFENSE

E	Devin Lemons	6-3	225	Jr.	*Aaron Hunt	6-2	230	Fr.
NT	Terry Patton	6-2	290	Sr.	*Josh Page	6-2	265	Fr.
T	Kris Kocurek	6-5	295	Jr.	Detwill Williams	6-3	236	So.
E	Taurus Rucker	6-0	225	Sr.	*Zeno McCoy	6-5	220	Fr.
OLB	Keith Cockrum	6-2	205	Sr.	Dorian Pitts	6-4	210	Jr.
MLB	Kyle Shipley	6-2	235	Sr.	*Rusty Bucy	6-1	230	Fr.
OLB	Tim Duffie	5-11	230	Sr.	Will Culpepper	6-2	235	Jr.
CB	Anthony Malbrough	5-9	190	Sr.	Antwan Alexander	6-0	190	Jr.
SS	Reagan Bownds	5-10	190	Sr.	John Norman	6-1	210	Jr.
FS	Kevin Curtis	6-2	195	So.	Anthony Terrell	5-10	170	So.
CB	Oscar Solis	5-8	190	Sr.	Derrick Briggs	5-10	168	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Chris Birkholz	6-0	190	Jr.	P	Brian Roberson	6-2	190	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

4 Oklahoma State

Site: Stillwater
Coach: Bob Simmons (22-24, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ron Calcagni (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Rob Ryan (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 14
Lettermen returning: 36
Stadium: Lewis (turf, 50,616)
Last league title won: 1976 (tie, Big Eight)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 53rd
1998 record: 5-6; Big 12 South: 3-5 (tie 4th)

1998 RESULTS

at Kansas, W 38-28
 at Tulsa, L 35-20
 Mississippi State, W 42-23
 Nebraska, L 24-17
 at Texas Tech, L 24-17
 at Kansas State, L 52-20
 Oklahoma, W 41-26
 Texas A&M, L 17-6
 at Texas, L 37-34
 SW Louisiana, W 44-20
 Baylor, W 24-10

SCHEDULE

S4—SW Louisiana
 S11—Tulsa
 S18—at Mississippi State
 O2—at Nebraska
 O9—Texas Tech
 O23—Kansas State
 O30—at Texas A&M
 N6—Texas
 N13—Kansas
 N20—at Baylor
 N27—at Oklahoma

NATIONAL RANK
35

Quarterbacks: After an outstanding freshman season, Tony Lindsay regressed last year. However, few can match the gamesmanship and drive of the swift-footed quarterback. Chris Chaloupka has transferred, leaving Lindsay-like, redshirt sophomore B.J. Tiger and drop-back-style, true freshman Ben

Bowling as the backups. Neither has thrown a collegiate pass.

Running backs: No team in the league has a better 1-2 tandem than Nathan Simmons and Jamaal Fobbs, who combined for nine rushing TDs a year ago and have teamed for 2,900 rushing yards over the last two seasons. Simmons sat out spring practice while recovering from major knee surgery. Sophomore Reggie White figures to thrust himself into the rotation, force a split-back system and push Fobbs into the slot on occasion.

Receivers: Oklahoma State is hurting, following the loss of Willie Grissom and Sean Love. Top returnee Terrance Richardson, who caught 25 passes last season, needs to be more involved in the offense. Ethan Howell had three touchdown catches among his 11 receptions last year. Tight end Marcellus Rivers, who took classes at an Oklahoma City junior college in the spring to maintain his eligibility, could emerge as a real force. If Rivers isn't available, sophomore Irving Baptiste is an option.

Offensive line: Three starters are gone, and Adam Davis, the team's best lineman, missed spring practice while recovering from shoulder surgery. Four redshirt sophomores—Jeff Machado, Bryan Phillips, Jason Rannebarger and D.J. Grissom—figure heavily into what should be a solid, improved line. Reynell Lavigne returns at center.

Defensive line: Ends Andre Waddle and Alton Weaver, who combined for 12 sacks last season, are gone. The staff is counting on redshirt freshmen Kevin Williams and Thomas Glapion, who lack bulk but are quick and should be able to add strength to their 6-5 frames. Tackles Zac Akin, Cortney Mallory and Eric Stevenson are adequate.

Linebackers: As usual, the Cowboys are loaded here, and they will benefit from the return of senior Jack Golden, who was redshirted last season. Seniors Kenyatta Wright, one of the best middle linebackers in the league and a good cover man, and Raymond Cato are extremely active. Tarrell Knauls and Wright each had five sacks last season.

Defensive backs: Both safeties are gone, and the Cowboys need to upgrade at cornerback. Elbert Craig and Carlos Banks could see time as true freshmen. The coaches are counting on the return of Alvin

Porter, heralded recruit Chris Massey and redshirt sophomore Marcus Jones. Porter was a superb cover man as a freshman two years ago, then needed to attend junior college to shore up his grades. Massey could be another R.W. McQuarters, who left school as a 1998 NFL first-round draft choice.

Special teams: Tim Sydnies missed only three of 18 field-goal attempts last year; his range extends to about 45 yards. Punter Scott Elder performed well as a freshman last season, averaging 42 yards. Fobbs was the league's second-best kick returner in 1998. Massey



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

First things first: The Cowboys need Rivers to become a bigger factor in the passing game, but first he needs to maintain his eligibility.

could win the punt return role.

Coaching: Bob Simmons remains a hot commodity, although a repeat of last season—three losses in the final minutes, including on the final plays against Nebraska and Texas—would change that quickly. He's 3-1 against Oklahoma, but hasn't beaten Texas Tech.

Schedule: For the second consecutive season, Oklahoma State will play six bowl teams. The Cowboys go to Nebraska, Texas A&M and Mississippi State. They get three big ones—Kansas State, Texas and Texas Tech—at Lewis Field.

Outlook: Oklahoma State has to learn how to close out games and win on the road. With this year's team younger, more athletic and deeper than last year's, Simmons believes his program can regain the momentum it lost last season.

COWBOYS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Terrance Richardson	5-9 180 Sr.	*Terrance Davis	5-11 180 Fr.
T Lawrence Chamberlain	6-4 340 Jr.	*Kyle Eaton	6-7 280 Fr.
G Adam Davis	6-3 285 Sr.	Bryan Phillips	6-5 285 So.
C Reynell Lavigne	6-1 290 Sr.	Josh Lind	6-6 285 Jr.
G Jeff Machado	6-3 275 So.	*Jason Johnson	6-3 275 Fr.
T Kevin Kemp	6-6 300 Jr.	Andrew Golembiewski	6-5 290 Sr.
TE Garrett Steggs	6-3 245 Sr.	Khary Jackson	6-4 250 Jr.
WR Ethan Howell	6-1 175 Sr.	Cameron White	6-4 178 Sr.
QB Tony Lindsay	6-2 190 Jr.	B.J. Tiger	6-3 195 So.
TB Nathan Simmons	5-10 205 Sr.	Jamaal Fobbs	5-10 185 So.
FB Jeremy Halferty	6-0 245 Jr.	Kevin Brown	6-1 260 Sr.

DEFENSE

E Tanner Bruce	6-4 240 So.	Sean Barry	6-4 240 So.
T Cortney Mallory	6-1 290 Sr.	Chris Tyler	6-2 280 So.
T Zac Akin	6-1 285 Jr.	Eric Stevenson	6-4 290 Sr.
E Zak Warner	6-4 265 Jr.	*Kevin Williams	6-5 240 Fr.
OLB Tarrell Knauls	6-1 240 Sr.	*Terrence Robinson	6-1 235 Fr.
MLB Kenyatta Wright	6-1 245 Sr.	Dwayne Levels	6-3 235 So.
OLB Jack Golden	6-1 240 Sr.	Raymond Cato	6-1 250 Sr.
CB Evan Howell	6-1 175 Sr.	*Ricklan Holmes	6-1 190 Fr.
SS J.B. Flowers	6-0 185 Sr.	Justin Thomas	6-3 237 Jr.
FS Adam Edwards	6-0 215 Sr.	Chris Carter	6-3 215 Sr.
CB Marcus Jones	5-9 180 So.	Alvin Porter	6-0 185 Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Tim Sydnies	6-2 195 Sr.	P Scott Elder	6-3 195 So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

5 Oklahoma

Site: Norman
Coach: Bob Stoops (first year)
Offensive coordinator: Mike Leach (1st season)
Defensive coordinators: Mike Stoops and Brent Verables (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 52
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 72,765)
Last league title won: 1987 (Big Eight)
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1998 TSN rank: 71st
1998 record: 5-6; Big 12 South: 3-5 (tie 4th)

1998 RESULTS

North Texas, W 37-9
 at Texas Christian, W 10-9
 California, L 13-12
 Colorado, L 27-25
 Texas, L 34-3
 at Missouri, L 20-6
 at Oklahoma St., L 41-26
 Iowa State, W 17-14
 at Texas A&M, L 29-0
 at Baylor, W 28-16
 Texas Tech, W 20-17

SCHEDULE

S11—Indiana State
 S18—Baylor
 S25—at Louisville
 O2—at Notre Dame
 O9—Texas*
 O23—Texas A&M
 O30—at Colorado
 N6—Missouri
 N13—at Iowa State
 N20—at Texas Tech
 N27—Oklahoma State
 *at Dallas, Texas

NATIONAL RANK
67

Quarterbacks: After trying five players under center last year, the Sooners have enlisted the help of junior college transfer Josh Heupel, who connected on 60 percent of his passes for 2,308 yards and 28 touchdowns last year. That's all the more amazing because he alternated with another and played

only in the first half of games. Should Heupel not take the job, the new staff will look to true freshmen Chase Williams and Jason White, although coach Bob Stoops would prefer to redshirt both.

Running backs: Without De'Mond Parker, who left early for the NFL, and Jermaine Fazande, the heirs apparent at "F" and "H" back are the short, stocky Michael Thornton and the larger, more versatile Johnnie Balous. If they can't get the job done, look for senior Reggie Skinner, sophomore Josh Norman and redshirt freshman Jay Hunt to make bids.

Receivers: For the last three decades, if you were talking receivers in Norman, you were discussing sound systems. Under new management, this position may be about to make some noise. Senior Jarraill Jackson and junior Ahmed Kabba can be explosive. Redshirt freshmen Andre Woolfork, Curtis Fagan and DaWight Benning also figure into the equation. Sooners coaches think they might have the next Stephen Alexander at tight end in 6-5, 229-pound redshirt freshman Trent Smith.

Offensive line: If redshirt freshman Mike Skinner emerges as quickly as expected, Oklahoma could have two all-conference tackles in he and 6-5, 295-pound Scott Kempenich. The line returns intact, giving the Sooners a lot of experience, but the players will have to adjust to a new offense. The line should be deeper than it has been in years.

Defensive line: This is one area that took a huge hit with the loss of Kelly Gregg, whose nine sacks were the most in the league last year. Junior Corey Callens has shifted inside from end to take advantage of his strength and bulk alongside Ryan Fisher and Jeremy Wilson-Guest. That enables the coaches to get quicker players like Darryl Bright and Cornelius Burton at end.

Linebackers: The Sooners are well-stocked, which is why the staff felt secure enough to move aggressive, sure-tackling Ontei Jones to strong safety, making room for sophomore Nick Simpson. Brandon Moore and Rocky Calmus are more than adequate.

Defensive backs: The 5-9 Jones has excellent quickness and should be able to cover receivers better than the departed Gana Joseph, who was a strong tackler but not adept at pass coverage. Mike Woods is a solid cornerback. Redshirt sophomore Brent Jackson

should offer some help.

Special teams: The help-wanted sign is out. Matt Reeves was reliable enough last season, making 10 of 13 field-goal attempts, but he has little range beyond 40 yards, and sophomore Jeff Ferguson was a dismal 4 of 12. Ferguson, who averaged 41.5 yards in his first year as the punter, could lose the job Tim Duncan, a transfer from Eastern Kentucky.

Schedule: After games with Indiana State and Baylor, Oklahoma is on the road for four of five (Louisville, Notre Dame, Texas and Colorado). That



Versatile: Sooners coaches are confident that the smallish, quick Jones can make a smooth transition from linebacker to strong safety.

looks formidable, but Texas lost Ricky Williams, Colorado has a new coach, and Texas A&M—the home game in that stretch—lost the heart of its defense.

Coaching: Stoops, a first-time head coach who built some of the nation's top defenses the past three seasons at Florida, will rely heavily on his coordinators. Mike Leach hopes to install some of the passing nuances he learned at Kentucky, while three aides from Kansas State—including Stoops' brother Mike, who will be co-defensive coordinator—should give Oklahoma a solid staff.

Outlook: With eight starters returning on both sides of the ball, Oklahoma could be the surprise team in the South Division. If the quarterback position stabilizes and a replacement for Parker emerges, a bowl berth is conceivable for the Sooners.

SOONERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Andre Woolfork	6-1	184	Fr.	*Curtis Fagan	5-11	184	Fr.
T	Scott Kempenich	6-5	295	Jr.	*Mike Skinner	6-4	315	Fr.
G	Adam Carpenter	6-1	299	Jr.	Ryan Allen	6-2	247	Sr.
C	Matt O'Neal	6-3	262	Sr.	*Josh Smith	6-1	268	Fr.
G	Jason Bronson	6-5	272	So.	Reese Travis	6-1	261	Jr.
T	Stockar McDougale	6-5	354	Sr.	Will Mathis	6-5	305	So.
TE	Matt Anderson	6-2	250	Sr.	Chris Hammons	6-3	244	Jr.
WR	Jarraill Jackson	5-9	193	Sr.	*Damien Mackey	5-11	186	Fr.
QB	Josh Heupel	6-2	205	Jr.	Patrick Fletcher	5-10	167	Jr.
RB	Seth Littrell	5-10	213	Jr.	Brandon Daniels	5-10	207	Sr.
FB	Michael Thornton	5-5	187	Sr.	Reggie Skinner	5-8	202	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Frank Romero	6-3	263	So.	*Beau Hodges	6-2	239	Fr.
T	Corey Callens	6-1	266	Jr.	Jeremy Wilson-Guest	6-1	299	Jr.
T	Ryan Fisher	6-1	277	Jr.	*Greg Muhammad	5-11	254	So.
E	Cornelius Burton	6-5	275	Sr.	Sedric Jones	6-2	254	Sr.
OLB	Brandon Moore	6-1	223	Jr.	Anthony Davis	6-0	218	Sr.
MLB	Rocky Calmus	6-3	226	So.	Michael Dulaney	6-1	225	So.
OLB	Armand Spence	6-0	237	Jr.	Nick Simpson	6-0	210	So.
CB	Mike Woods	5-10	188	Sr.	William Bartee	6-1	200	Jr.
SS	Onte Jones	5-9	191	Jr.	Rodney Rideau	6-1	191	Sr.
FS	William Bartee	6-1	200	Jr.	Rodney Rideau	6-1	191	Sr.
CB	Pee Wee Woods	5-8	178	Sr.	William Bartee	6-1	200	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jeff Ferguson	5-10	183	So.	P	Jeff Ferguson	5-10	183	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

6 Baylor

**NATIONAL
RANK
74**

Site: Waco, Texas
Coach: Kevin Steele (first year)
Offensive coordinator: Greg Meyer (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Andrea Haley (1st season)
Offensive scheme: I formation
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 37
Stadium: Floyd Casey (grass, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (Southwest, tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1998 TSN rank: 82nd
1998 record: 2-9; Big 12 South: 1-7 (6th)

1998 RESULTS

at Oregon State, L 27-17
 North Carolina St. W 33-30
 at Colorado, L 18-16
 at Texas Tech, L 31-29
 Kansas, W 31-24
 Texas A&M, L 35-14
 at Texas, L 30-20
 at Notre Dame, L 27-3
 Kansas State, L 49-6
 Oklahoma, L 28-16
 at Oklahoma St., L 24-10

SCHEDULE

S4—at Boston College
 S11—UNLV
 S18—at Oklahoma
 S25—Texas
 O2—North Texas
 O9—at Texas A&M
 O23—Texas Tech
 O30—at Kansas State
 N6—at Kansas
 N13—Colorado
 N20—Oklahoma State

Quarterbacks: The new offense is tailor-made for junior Odell James, who is receiving tips from former Nebraska great Tommie Frazier, the team's running backs coach. James still has an easier time reading Dostoyevsky than he does defenses. Nevertheless, he is expected to hold off Jermaine Alfred, redshirt freshman

Brandon Jones and sophomore Michael Odum.

Running backs: The Bears had just two 100-yard rushing games in 1998 and fewer than 90 yards in seven games. Ben Gay, a high school All-American often compared to Earl Campbell, was poised to take over the tailback spot. That is, until he was suspended from spring practice and the 1999 season opener for violating team rules. Fullback Derek Lagway is a powerful runner and the team's best receiver out of the backfield. Elijah Burkins and Darrell Bush probably are too small to be the showcase runner, but they could emerge as wide receivers.

Receivers: After throwing only four touchdown passes last season, all to seniors, the Bears are starting almost from scratch. Mark Cogdill, who doubles as an outfielder on the Baylor baseball team, has a knack for getting open. Andra Fuller, Kyle Staudt and Martin Dossett have a combined nine catches among them. Baylor recruited only one wide receiver, Reggie Newhouse. Tight end recruit Shane Williams had 160 catches and 47 touchdowns over two years for his state champion Springdale, Ark., team.

Offensive line: Baylor must replace two huge, NFL-caliber linemen, Derrick Fletcher and Kelvin Garmon, and fix an offense that ranked 99th nationally in rushing and 106th overall last season. The Bears have three part-time starters back—center Joe Jackson, guard Chris Watton and tackle Greg Jerman—and plenty of possibilities, considering that former coach Dave Roberts signed 15 linemen a year ago. The 6-5, 281-pound Jerman has a tremendous upside. Two 6-4 red-shirt freshmen—Everett Fraser and Chad Crady—will get long looks in August.

Defensive line: Dwight Johnson has the bulk to play inside in Baylor's new 4-3 alignment, which has to address a porous run defense that allowed 214 yards a game last season. Sophomore Ronald Smith got some experience last season. Speedy, hard-hitting end Charles Foster has to show more discipline.

Linebackers: The new staff is emphasizing speed over size, which could be ideal for 6-2, 200-pound recruits Anthony Simmons and Suliasi Maumalanga. Rodney Smith's move from strong safety will make this unit even quicker. The senior has a nose for the ball. The driven Kris Micheaux again should control the middle, assuming he isn't beaten out by Eric Clay.

McKinley Bowie and Andre Taylor will vie for playing time on the strongside.

Defensive backs: Cornerback Gary Baxter, who broke up the second-most passes in the league (18) last season, has All-America potential. Free safety Sean Armistead had double-digit tackles in five games. Undersized Robert Neal is the other cornerback. Curtis Henderson and Tommie Black will battle for Smith's strong safety spot.

Special teams: Kyle Atteberry is among the league's elite punters, and he may get a crack at the kicking job.



Upgrade: Baylor's new coaches, intent on building a quick defense, have shifted Rodney Smith from strong safety to linebacker.

Freshman Brooks Harris kicked field goals from 48, 52 and 53 yards in a high school game last year. Burkins and Fuller are competent returners, though Baylor usually went for blocks on punts last year.

Schedule: The Bears face five 1998 bowl teams and may need directions back home after road games at Boston College and Oklahoma in the first three weeks.

Coaching: Kevin Steele, once a walk-on linebacker at Tennessee, is in his first head coaching job after four years with the Carolina Panthers and six at Nebraska. He retained two assistants from Roberts' staff and hired others with strong in-state roots.

Outlook: After two straight 2-9 seasons, Baylor is looking for stability under a rookie coach who prefers speed over the size his predecessor desired. A .500 season would be an ambitious goal.

BEARS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR *Andra Fuller	5-10	171	Fr.	*Bobby Darnell	5-11	183	Fr.
T Greg Jerman	6-5	281	So.	*Chad Crady	6-4	281	Fr.
G *Ethan Kelley	6-2	296	Fr.	Demetrio Phillips	6-3	279	So.
C Joe Jackson	6-2	286	So.	Jon Erickson	6-4	283	So.
G Chris Watton	6-3	306	Sr.	*Everett Fraser	6-4	293	Fr.
T Tyshaun Whitson	6-5	304	Jr.	David Arrhstrong	6-5	281	So.
TE Brandon Thompson	6-2	256	Jr.	*Andrew Obriotti	6-2	234	So.
WR *Lanny O'Steen	5-11	178	Fr.	Ryan Chapdelaine	6-0	181	So.
QB Odell James	6-3	226	Jr.	Jermaine Alfred	6-1	220	Sr.
TB Darrell Bush	5-8	189	Jr.	Elijah Burkins	5-7	198	Sr.
FB Derek Lagway	6-1	235	Jr.	Melvin Barnett	6-0	251	So.

DEFENSE

E Justin Snow	6-3	246	Sr.	Fred Rogers	6-1	267	Sr.
T James Calvin	6-1	285	Sr.	Ryan Gillenwater	6-1	288	So.
T Dwight Johnson	6-4	278	Jr.	Ronald Smith	6-4	301	Jr.
E Eddrick Brooks	6-2	247	Sr.	Charles Foster	6-1	255	Jr.
OLB Jason Jackson	6-0	233	Sr.	Andre Taylor	6-1	234	Sr.
MLB Kris Micheaux	6-1	256	Jr.	Eric Clay	6-1	241	Jr.
OLB Rodney Smith	6-0	221	Sr.	McKinley Bowie	6-0	240	Jr.
CB Robert Neal	5-9	197	Sr.	Daniel Wiltner	5-7	176	Jr.
SS Curtis Henderson	5-9	202	Sr.	Tommie Black	6-0	209	Jr.
FS Sean Armistead	5-10	189	Sr.	Samir Al-Amin	6-0	207	Jr.
CB Gary Baxter	6-1	198	Jr.	Allen Pace	5-9	169	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Kyle Atteberry	6-0	174	Sr.	P Kyle Atteberry	6-0	174	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold ~ Redshirt

BIG 12

1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Ricky Williams, Texas	11	361	2,124	5.9	27	193.1
2. Ricky Williams, Texas Tech, Jr.	11	306	1,582	5.2	13	143.8
3. Devin West, Missouri	11	283	1,578	5.6	17	143.5
4. Darren Davis, Iowa State, Sr.	11	294	1,166	4.0	7	106.0
5. De'Mond Parker, Oklahoma	11	204	1,077	5.3	5	97.9
6. David Winbush, Kansas, Jr.	11	209	974	4.7	9	88.6
7. Nathan Simmons, Oklahoma State, Sr.	11	204	937	4.6	5	85.2
8. Eric Hickson, Kansas State	11	169	902	5.3	9	82.0
9. Dante Hall, Texas A&M, Sr.	13	243	1,024	4.2	8	78.8
10. Correll Buckhalter, Nebraska, Jr.	12	142	799	5.6	8	66.6

PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Michael Bishop, Kansas State	12	295	164	.556	4	2,844	9.6	23	159.6
2. Major Applewhite, Texas, So.	11	273	159	.582	11	2,453	9.0	18	147.4
3. Matt Tittle, Texas Tech, Sr.	10	103	55	.534	6	961	9.3	6	139.3
4. Mike Moschetti, Colorado, Sr.	11	276	162	.587	7	2,104	7.6	15	135.6
5. Randy McCown, Texas A&M, Sr.	12	130	66	.508	3	1,025	7.9	6	127.6
6. Rob Peters, Texas Tech, Sr.	10	183	96	.525	4	1,269	6.9	9	122.6
7. Corby Jones, Missouri	11	178	87	.489	5	1,281	7.2	9	120.4
8. Tony Lindsay, Oklahoma St., Jr.	11	196	97	.495	6	1,442	7.4	7	117.0
9. Zac Wegner, Kansas, Sr.	10	186	91	.489	6	1,367	7.4	7	116.6
10. Todd Bandhauer, Iowa State	11	355	179	.504	20	2,206	6.2	14	104.4

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Darnell McDonald, Kansas State	12	75	1,092	9	6.3	14.6
2. Wane McGarity, Texas	11	58	1,087	9	5.3	18.7
3. Darrin Chiaverini, Colorado	11	52	630	5	4.7	12.1
4. Kwame Cavil, Texas, Jr.	11	51	775	3	4.6	15.2
5. Donnie Hart, Texas Tech	11	48	871	7	4.4	18.2
6. Damian Groce, Iowa State, Sr.	11	47	640	7	4.3	13.6
7. Chris Anthony, Iowa State, So.	11	42	490	2	3.8	11.7
8. Aaron Lockett, Kansas State, So.	12	44	928	6	3.7	21.1
9. Javon Green, Colorado, Jr.	11	39	539	4	3.6	13.8
10. Morris Anderson, Baylor	11	37	639	3	3.4	17.3

1998 TEAM STATS
OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Nebraska (6)	253.8	1. Texas (19)	266.5	1. Kansas State (9)	478.5
2. Missouri (9)	232.0	2. Kansas State (23)	253.6	2. Texas (11)	470.6
3. Kansas State (12)	224.9	3. Iowa State (58)	206.8	3. Texas Tech (29)	404.5
4. Oklahoma State (19)	204.5	4. Texas Tech (65)	202.7	4. Nebraska (39)	384.9
5. Texas (21)	204.2	5. Colorado (66)	202.4	5. Oklahoma State (58)	366.6
6. Texas Tech (24)	201.7	6. Kansas (81)	170.8	6. Missouri (69)	350.0
7. Oklahoma (34)	183.4	7. Baylor (85)	166.5	7. Iowa State (73)	335.6
8. Texas A&M (54)	152.7	8. Oklahoma State (86)	162.1	8. Colorado (81)	325.6
9. Kansas (60)	148.9	9. Texas A&M (87)	159.3	9. Kansas (85)	319.7
10. Iowa State (81)	128.8	10. Nebraska (98)	131.2	10. Texas A&M (91)	312.0
11. Colorado (88)	123.2	11. Missouri (102)	118.0	11. Oklahoma (101)	293.3
12. Baylor (99)	110.4	12. Oklahoma (107)	109.9	12. Baylor (106)	276.8

DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASS EFFICIENCY		PASSING	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	Points	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Kansas State (10)	98.3	1. Colorado (4)	91.9	1. Kansas State (3)	268.3
2. Nebraska (16)	116.8	2. Kansas State (9)	101.2	2. Oklahoma (6)	278.8
3. Texas Tech (18)	118.9	3. Texas A&M (15)	105.4	3. Texas Tech (8)	285.0
4. Oklahoma State (20)	119.5	4. Missouri (27)	110.0	4. Texas A&M (10)	289.3
5. Oklahoma (21)	121.1	5. Oklahoma (29)	110.3	5. Colorado (13)	296.0
6. Texas A&M (22)	121.7	6. Kansas (33)	111.2	6. Missouri (21)	313.4
7. Texas (45)	143.5	7. Nebraska (34)	111.6	7. Nebraska (22)	313.7
8. Colorado (49)	147.5	8. Texas Tech (39)	113.9	8. Oklahoma State (29)	329.9
9. Missouri (63)	160.1	9. Baylor (74)	130.5	9. Texas (56)	364.4
10. Baylor (98)	214.1	10. Oklahoma State (80)	132.0	10. Kansas (70)	387.5
11. Iowa State (103)	221.0	11. Texas (92)	138.7	11. Iowa State (86)	401.3
12. Kansas (107)	235.6	12. Iowa State (95)	141.5	12. Baylor (101)	441.3

RECRUITING

1. TEXAS: In his first season, Mack Brown coached the Longhorns to a 9-3 finish. Then he brought 35 prospects to the Texas campus and signed 28 of them, efficiently building the nation's top recruiting class. Quarterback Chris Simms and linebacker Cory Redding were the highest-rated players in the country at their positions. "All we did was ask if they wanted to come here, and they said yes," Brown says.

2. TEXAS A&M: Another big class—28—full of guys who can play. Four of the top 10 players in Texas signed with A&M, including quarterback Colby Freeman. Tight end was a priority, and coach R.C. Slocum signed two, including Fred Spiller. Defensive back Reggie Waddell was considered one of the best junior college players available.

3. NEBRASKA: Coach Frank Solich was unconcerned that exit polls did not rank the Huskers' 22-member class in the top 10. The collection features eight SuperPrep All-Americans, including quarterback Carl Crawford of Houston. Crawford has a chance to contribute right away, as does defensive back Rob Blomeier.

4. KANSAS STATE: A disappointing finish to the 1998 season didn't affect the Wildcats' recruiting class, which numbered 24. Defensive lineman Cliff Holloman, who followed new assistant Jim Gush from Garden City (Kan.) junior college, will play right away. Quarterback Eli Roberson, one of five SuperPrep All-Americans, is cast in the Michael Bishop mold.

5. OKLAHOMA: The Sooners haven't had an effective quarterback since Cale Gundy, and new coach Bob Stoops set out to fix that by signing four, including SuperPrep All-Americans Jason White and Josh Heupel. Linebacker Trey Whitlock and lineman Kory Klein are the top defenders in the class, which does not include an offensive lineman.

6. OKLAHOMA STATE: Coach Bob Simmons came from behind to sign highly decorated quarterback Ben Bowling of Tulsa. Bowling may not play right away, but three transfers from Northeast Oklahoma A&M junior college—tight end Bryan Blackwood, wide receiver Paul Jones and defensive end Juqua Thomas—will.

7. MISSOURI: The sleeping giant has awakened. Now in his sixth season, coach Larry Smith found 15 of his 22 signees in Missouri, including offensive lineman Rob Droegge and defensive back Terrence Curry, both of whom might be ready to play immediately.

8. KANSAS: Ten of the 22 signees are Texans, thanks largely to assistant head coach Darrell Wyatt. SuperPrep All-America running back Reggie Duncan reneged on a commitment to Texas A&M and signed with Kansas. Two junior college transfers, quarterback Dylon Smith and linebacker Chaz Murphy, are key additions.

9. IOWA STATE: The Cyclones hit Florida hard, getting eight of their 27 signees from the Sunshine State. Headlining the group is tailback Jason Davis, who follows brothers Troy and Darren to Ames. Linebacker Matt Word became a hot prospect when he qualified late, and coach Dan McCarney fought off the likes of Georgia Tech and Syracuse for his signature.

10. TEXAS TECH: Limited to 19 scholarships because of NCAA sanctions, coach Spike Dykes did his best to fill holes. B.J. Symons is the quarterback of the future, and running back Shaud Williams will be Ricky Williams' understudy. Defensive back Eric Cooper has a chance to play right away.

11. COLORADO: Rick Neuheisel's untimely departure for Washington left Colorado in the lurch; at least a dozen recruits defected. In the two weeks between his hiring and signing day, coach Gary Barnett saved 14 signees, including four offensive linemen who average 6-foot-6 and 309 pounds.

12. BAYLOR: Like Barnett, Bears coach Kevin Steele got a late start. Just four of the 22 players he signed were rated in Texas' top 100 by the *Houston Chronicle*—among them defensive back Derrick Cash and offensive lineman Derek Long.

SCOUTING

Big 12

Forget what you've heard. If somebody offers you good odds that the Big 12 is breaking up, take the bet. The constant rumors that Colorado will bolt to the Pac-10 or Missouri to the Big Ten or Texas to become its own nation are just that—rumors. The truth is, the Big 12 is sickeningly healthy and embarrassingly lucrative, and it'll stay together as long as the cash keeps flowing in.

Ascending: Who says coaching doesn't matter? It took Mack Brown all of about 25 minutes to turn Texas from the most underachieving football program in the country into a national powerhouse, and he's only getting started. Expect the same thing from Gary Barnett at Colorado, where Rick Neuheisel always showed well but never seemed to have the substance to support a national-caliber program, and from Bob Stoops at Oklahoma, a program that has ranked just behind Texas on the list of biggest disappointments in the 1990s.

Descending: Kansas State. Ten years ago you would have torn out this page, wadded it up and spit on it if you'd read

the best of the North against the best of the South.

Bowl bound: Nebraska, Kansas State, Missouri, Colorado, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech.

Biggest shoes to fill: It appears that Hodges Mitchell will follow Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams as Texas' halfback. Mitchell averaged 4.8 yards on 23 carries last year, but that doesn't make life without a legend any easier. "You don't replace him," says Texas offensive coordinator Greg Davis, "but you've got to line somebody up."

Most overrated player: DeAngelo Evans was supposed to be the next great Nebraska I-back, and he was everything advertised as a freshman. But one injury after another has limited Evans to three games in the last two years, leaving the Huskers to do little more than reminisce about the days when their running game was the best in the country.

Most underrated player: Eric Crouch probably will start the season as Nebraska's backup quarterback again this season. In eight games last year, Crouch rushed for 459 yards, passed for 601 and showed he could start almost anywhere else.

Best coach: Kansas State's Bill Snyder ranks awfully high on the "What Have You Done For Me Lately" scale, having built a national championship contender out of a crater. But how will he and the Wildcats handle prosperity? Since their string of bowl appearances began in 1993, each season has built on the one before it. After last year's run to the top of the polls—and its disappointing finish—there's no place to go but down.

Best staff: This trophy should be retired in Lincoln, because the only thing better than the football knowledge of Frank Solich's assistants is their continuity.

Coach on the hot seat: Iowa State improved last year and came up with an awfully big win over an awfully bad Iowa team, but sooner or later Dan McCarney is going to have to win. He's 9-35 in four years at Iowa State, and even though he's done everything but win, winning matters.

Odds and ends: Eight players, most of whom were unhappy about playing time, have bolted from Texas since the Cotton Bowl, including backup quarterback Adam Dunn and Chad Irwin, who started the spring as the Longhorns' starting tight end but was switched to tackle. Additional



Big shoes: No one expects Mitchell to duplicate Williams' 1998 season. The Longhorns would be happy if Mitchell matches his '98 average gain.

defections were possible. ... Kansas wide receiver Michael Chandler recovered quickly from injuries suffered last winter when he was assaulted and shot by intruders in his apartment—so quickly that the Jayhawks' third-leading receiver participated in some of spring practice. ... Nebraska, Kansas and Kansas State are among the schools that will unveil stadium improvements this season. All have added luxury suites. ... Hard to believe, but Texas' win in the Cotton Bowl was the Longhorns' first in a New Year's Day bowl since 1982. ... Tim Millis, the Big 12 supervisor of officials, visited all the conference's spring camps. While he reviewed 1998 game film with coaches, he did not talk with Solich about the spine-wrenching but unflagged face-mask grab Kansas State's Travis Ochs put on Crouch late in the Wildcats' win last fall. "I think we've put that behind us," Solich said. ... Colorado hoped to hold its traditional end-of-spring game at Mile High Stadium, but when logistics proved too complicated the scrimmage was canceled. Folsom Field was out of commission while workers installed a grass playing surface. ... Kevin Steele, who spent six years as an assistant at Nebraska before a foray into the NFL coaching ranks, apparently has made a great first impression at Baylor, where the program was in such a shambles that Dave Roberts was fired after just two years. ... Part of an increasingly common phenomenon: Arkansas State pulled out as Oklahoma's season-opening opponent because of a scheduling conflict. The Sooners scrambled and wound up with Division I-AA Indiana State as a replacement.

—Kurt Caywood

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBs	DBs		
BAYLOR	10	11	8	12	7	7	8	12
COLORADO	6	2	1	2	6	3	2	3
IOWA STATE	8	7	4	8	11	11	11	10
KANSAS	9	12	2	10	12	12	9	8
KANSAS ST.	7	9	5	5	5	2	6	2
MISSOURI	11	8	9	4	9	9	12	5
NEBRASKA	4	1	10	6	1	1	7	9
OKLAHOMA	12	3	12	7	3	6	10	11
OKLA. ST.	1	4	11	9	2	10	4	7
TEXAS	5	10	3	1	8	5	3	6
TEXAS A&M	2	6	7	3	4	4	1	4
TEXAS TECH	3	5	6	11	10	8	5	1

that the Wildcats would be uninspired by a nine-win season. But let's face it: Last year was K-State's shot—and it fell just short. These Wildcats will be good. They will win nine games. They will go bowling for a seventh consecutive year. But Wildcat fans want a national championship, and this is not the year.

Best matchup: Nebraska at Texas, October 23. Two of the conference's traditional powers now are actual powers as well. There will be other good games—Texas A&M at Nebraska, Texas at A&M, maybe even Oklahoma-Texas with Stoops coaching at Oklahoma—but this one pits

ATLANTIC COAST



CONFERENCE
RANK

5

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY DOUG DOUGHTY, ROANOKE (VA.) NEWS

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

Conference	Conf.			Overall			W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.				
Florida State	7-1	283	88	11-2	401	161	97-13-1	.874	4,149	1,634
Georgia Tech	7-1	297	200	10-2	426	295	58-45-1	.558	1,994	1,979
Virginia	6-2	218	166	9-3	358	247	71-35-1	.664	3,140	1,962
North Carolina	5-3	195	210	7-5	288	283	75-31-1	.701	2,736	1,812
N. Carolina State	5-3	241	225	7-5	366	352	60-45-1	.566	2,716	2,550
Duke	2-6	128	263	4-7	229	319	22-69-1	.239	2,226	2,967
Wake Forest	2-6	182	249	3-8	235	335	31-69	.310	1,864	2,941
Clemson	1-7	157	216	3-8	218	272	63-41-1	.600	2,331	1,838
Maryland	1-7	129	213	3-8	202	290	33-66-1	.330	1,940	2,891

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES non-conference, conference
1. FLORIDA STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QB Chris Weinke must remain healthy. Young LBs must develop. 	WR Peter Warrick G Jason Whitaker	NT Corey Simon CB Mario Edwards	Nov. 20 at Florida Sept. 11 vs. Georgia Tech
2. GEORGIA TECH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steady ground game must balance attack. Overall depth is lacking, kicking is iffy. 	QB Joe Hamilton WR Dez White	FS Travares Tillman E Felipe Claybrooks	Nov. 27 vs. Georgia Sept. 11 at Florida State
3. NORTH CAROLINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depth is shaky, speed is needed at RB. Line, secondary lack starting experience. 	TE Alge Crumpler QB Ronald Curry	LB Brandon Spoon P Brian Schmitz	Sept. 11 at Indiana Sept. 25 vs. Florida State
4. VIRGINIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New QB working behind shallow line. Depth at DE and LB is iffy. 	TB Thomas Jones G Noel LaMontagne	LB Byron Thweatt E Travis Griffith	Oct. 2 vs. Virginia Tech Nov. 6 vs. Georgia Tech
5. NORTH CAROLINA ST.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big uglies needs to get down and dirty. Front line has to get tough against the run. 	QB Jamie Barnette WR Chris Coleman	CB Lloyd Harrison CB Tony Scott	Aug. 28 at Texas Nov. 11 vs. North Carolina
6. CLEMSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No line starters back for first time since '43. Front seven lacks veteran playmakers. 	WR Brian Wofford C Kyle Young	FS Robert Carswell SS DoMarco Fox	Nov. 20 at South Carolina Sept. 11 vs. Virginia
7. DUKE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line and QB are unsettled situations. Strong LBs must cover for iffy line. 	WR Scottie Montgomery RB B.J. Hill	E Chris Combs LB Ryan Stallmeyer	Sept. 18 vs. Northwestern Nov. 6 at Clemson
8. WAKE FOREST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New QB must assume command. Need to get stronger against the run. 	WR Jammie Deese K Matthew Burdick	LB Dustin Lyman FS DaLawn Parrish	Sept. 11 at Army Nov. 13 at Duke
9. MARYLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience is lacking at QB. Linebackers corps must be replenished. 	TB LaMont Jordan K Brian Kopka	T Delbert Cowsette E Peter Timmins	Sept. 18 vs. West Virginia Oct. 9 at Wake Forest

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech

SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN

Joe Hamilton learned early in his football career that there was little to be gained from standing with his back to a measuring stick. "I've never been listed under 5-10, and I've never been listed over 5-11½," says Hamilton, preparing for his final season as Georgia Tech's quarterback. "When I started playing JV, I was probably 5-8, and they said I wouldn't be able to play at the varsity level. When I did that, they were saying I couldn't do it at the college level. There's another one that I'll probably be facing next year."

Many colleges won't take a chance on a quarterback who stands less than 6-0. But in some ways Hamilton has been the perfect college quarterback: He hasn't faced the temptation to turn pro after two or three years.

As a redshirt junior, Hamilton led the Yellow Jackets to a 10-2 record and ACC championship in 1998 and was named first-team All-ACC after passing for 2,166 yards and 17 touchdowns.

"I think it's changing," says Hamilton, referring to the perception of short quarterbacks. "But I think there are people out there who still have a lot of doubt. Shaun King (of Tulane) was drafted in the second round, and when you look at what Doug Flutie has done, that's opened a lot of doors."

In 1996, coach George O'Leary described Hamilton as a great athlete playing quarterback. The next season, O'Leary was calling Hamilton a great quarterback. O'Leary said after the 1998 season that Hamilton was the best quarterback he had seen all season.

Hamilton said switching positions is a last resort: "My first love, my only love and the only position I've ever played is quarterback. I would have to know I couldn't play quarterback anywhere in America before I would ever move." —Doug Doughty

DEFENSE



Corey Simon, Florida State

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Although his college football career has taken a dramatic turn in the past year, Corey Simon still has a way to go to become as renowned as his Florida State freshman roommate. Here's how long Simon has been in Tallahassee: He once roomed with Randy Moss, who is entering his second season with the Minnesota Vikings.

Moss never played for Florida State, and Simon didn't for a long time. He had to sit out his freshman year for breaking the letter-of-intent he had signed with Georgia. Then he had surgery on both shoulders, keeping him out of action for one season and part of another.

Simon, a 6-4, 275-pound nose guard, wasn't a starter when the 1998 season began. His chance came when Larry Smith suffered a sprained ankle in the

Kickoff Classic. Smith missed only two games, but Simon started for most of the season. He made a team-high 16 tackles for loss and was the leading vote-getter among defensive linemen on the All-Atlantic Coast Conference team. Simon credits much of his success to the inner peace he found at a conference for Christians in the summer of 1998.

"I was reminded of the things I ought to be happy for in life instead of always wondering, 'Why me? Why do I have all these injuries? Why can't I crack the starting lineup?'" says Simon, who has missed three consecutive spring practices and spent a total of 57 weeks in some form of rehabilitation.

The spiritual rebirth didn't keep him from being any more aggressive or accepting anything less than his best as a player. "To this day, I'm my biggest critic," says Simon, who last year received the Brian Piccolo Award for the ACC player who had made the most courageous comeback from injury. "I'm as hard on myself as I can be." —Doug Doughty

PRESEASON

All-Atlantic Coast

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Peter Warrick, Florida State	6-0	190	Sr.
WR	Dez White, Georgia Tech	6-1	214	Jr.
TE	Alge Crumpler, North Carolina	6-3	260	Jr.
T	Ross Brannon, Florida State	6-8	300	Jr.
T	Jon Carman, Georgia Tech	6-8	335	Sr.
G	Jason Whitaker, Florida State	6-5	300	Sr.
G	Noel LaMontagne, Virginia	6-5	302	Sr.
C	John St. Clair, Virginia	6-5	295	Sr.
QB	Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech	5-10	189	Sr.
RB	Thomas Jones, Virginia	5-10	205	Sr.
RB	Travis Minor, Florida State	6-1	190	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Roland Seymour, Florida State	6-4	264	Jr.
E	Chris Combs, Duke	6-6	275	Sr.
T	Corey Simon, Florida State	6-4	275	Sr.
T	Jerry Johnson, Florida State	6-2	280	Sr.
LB	Byron Thweatt, Virginia	6-2	230	Jr.
LB	Brandon Spoon, North Carolina	6-2	240	Sr.
LB	Tommy Polley, Florida State	6-5	233	Jr.
CB	Mario Edwards, Florida State	6-2	195	Sr.
CB	Lloyd Harrison, North Carolina State	5-11	193	Sr.
S	Derrick Gibson, Florida State	6-2	200	Jr.
S	Robert Carswell, Clemson	6-0	208	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Sebastian Janikowski, Florida State	6-2	255	Jr.
P	Brian Schmitz, North Carolina	6-0	165	Sr.
KR	Peter Warrick, Florida State	6-0	190	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Scottie Montgomery, Duke	6-1	195	Sr.
WR	Chris Coleman, North Carolina State	6-0	203	Sr.
TE	Casey Crawford, Virginia	6-6	250	Sr.
T	Brad Messina, Maryland	6-5	288	Sr.
T	Austin Smithwick, Duke	6-6	265	Sr.
G	Jerry Carmichael, Florida State	6-4	310	Jr.
G	Bryan Jones, North Carolina	6-4	285	Sr.
C	Eric Thomas, Florida State	6-3	295	Sr.
QB	Chris Weinke, Florida State	6-5	225	Jr.
RB	LaMont Jordan, Maryland	5-11	216	Jr.
RB	Ray Robinson, North Carolina State	5-10	199	So.

DEFENSE

E	Felipe Claybrooks, Georgia Tech	6-4	248	Jr.
E	Travis Griffith, Virginia	6-3	255	Sr.
T	Merrix Watson, Georgia Tech	6-3	290	So.
T	Delbert Cowsette, Maryland	6-1	274	Sr.
LB	Sedrick Hodge, North Carolina	6-4	230	Jr.
LB	Dustin Lyman, Wake Forest	6-4	248	Sr.
LB	Chris Edwards, Georgia Tech	6-5	231	Sr.
CB	Tony Scott, North Carolina State	5-11	187	Sr.
CB	Tay Cody, Florida State	5-11	180	Jr.
S	DaLawn Parrish, Wake Forest	5-11	199	Sr.
S	Travares Tillman, Georgia Tech	6-2	190	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Sims Lenhardt, Duke	5-11	185	Sr.
P	Brian Morton, Duke	6-2	215	Jr.
KR	Dez White, Georgia Tech	6-1	214	Jr.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: C.J. Leak, QB, Wake Forest

Defense: Darnell Dockett, T, Florida State

ATLANTIC COAST

1 Florida State

Site: Tallahassee
Coach: Bobby Bowden (219-53-4, 23 years; 292-85-4 overall, 33 years)
Offensive coordinator: Mark Richt (6th season)
Defensive coordinator: Mickey Andrews (16th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 14
Lettermen returning: 58
Stadium: Doak Campbell (grass, 80,000)
Last league title won: 1998 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1981
1998 TSN rank: 3rd
1998 record: 11-2 (lost to Tennessee in Fiesta Bowl; Atlantic Coast: 7-1 (tie 1st))

1998 RESULTS

Texas A&M, W 23-14
 at North Carolina St., L 24-7
 Duke, W 62-13
 So. California, W 30-10
 at Maryland, W 24-10
 at Miami, W 26-14
 Clemson, W 48-0
 at Georgia Tech, W 34-7
 North Carolina, W 39-13
 Virginia, W 45-14
 at Wake Forest, W 24-7
 Florida, W 23-12
 Tennessee, L 23-16

SCHEDULE

A28—Louisiana Tech
 S11—Georgia Tech
 S18—North Carolina State
 S25—at North Carolina
 O2—Duke*
 O9—Miami (Fla.)
 O16—Wake Forest
 O23—at Clemson
 O30—at Virginia
 N13—Maryland
 N20—at Florida
 *at Jacksonville

NATIONAL RANK 2

Quarterbacks: Chris Weinke has thrown 218 consecutive passes without being intercepted. Weinke didn't participate in spring practice because he still was recovering from a neck injury that caused him to miss the final three games of last season. He's expected to be ready for the start this season. Jared

Jones, who got initiated as a true freshman last year, will take over if Weinke has problems. Marcus Outzen has proved to be a competent backup.

Running backs: Travis Minor has led the Seminoles in rushing in each of his two seasons but still is looking for his first 1,000-yard season. It might have come last year if not for the ankle injury that caused him to miss two games and hindered him in several others. The backup is Jeff Chaney, who may get pushed by highly regarded recruit Nick Maddox. Coaches hope fullback William McCray blocks like departed Lamarr Glenn. Former quarterback Dan Kendra also is available at fullback.

Receivers: Peter Warrick's surprising decision to return makes this an outstanding unit. The other starter is likely to be unsung Ron Dugans, who has been compared to former Florida State standout E.G. Green. Laveranues Coles is a defense-stretcher.

Offensive line: This unit is among the best in the nation. Tackle Ross Brannon and guard Jason Whitaker are the stars, and guard Jerry Carmichael, who is coming off knee surgery, is just a notch behind. Center Eric Thomas, listed at 295 pounds, is the only projected starter who weighs less than 300.

Defensive line: Corey Simon wasn't a starter at the beginning of last season, but he stayed healthy for the first time in his career and became the best lineman in the ACC. Simon and Jerry Johnson are perhaps the best set of tackles in the country. Roland Seymour, David Warren and Jamal Reynolds are quality ends. Reynolds is the next star for a defense that was No. 2 in the nation against the run last year.

Linebackers: If the Seminoles have a weakness on a defense that ranked No. 1 in the nation last year (214 yards a game), it's at linebacker. Outside men Lamont Green and Demetro Stephens are gone, leaving their roles to Tommy Polley and Brian Allen. Middle man Bradley Jennings isn't well-known but has plenty of ability. Theon Rackley offers quality depth.

Secondary: The Seminoles have so much talent that returning starting cornerbacks Mario Edwards and Tay Cody are fighting to keep Reggie Durden and Clevan Thomas from taking their jobs. Derrick Gibson is back at strong safety. Chris Hope, a highly regarded prospect, is ready to take over at free safety if Sean

Key falters.

Special teams: 1998 Groza Award winner Sebastian Janikowski set a school record with 27 field goals last year, and his 2.25 field goals per game led Division I-A. His kickoffs almost always reach the end zone. Keith Cottrell is a reliable punter. Coles and Warrick are outstanding return men.

Schedule: Florida State was to have opened the season against Auburn, but the Tigers bought their way out of the game after Terry Bowden, Bobby's son, resigned as Auburn coach last season. Instead,



He's back: Warrick's decision to return for his final season was greeted with cheers in Tallahassee and groans throughout the rest of the ACC.

Louisiana Tech will visit Tallahassee on August 28. Florida State will play eight games in Florida. One of those is in Gainesville, where the Seminoles haven't won since 1993. The other daunting trips are to North Carolina, Clemson and Virginia.

Coaching: There were no staff changes. There seldom are in Tallahassee, where the most junior full-time assistant is entering his fifth year.

Outlook: While the linebackers corps and Weinke's health are concerns, Florida State believes this team is its best since 1993. That's when the Seminoles won their only national title. The chance to win a national title is why Warrick returned. If Weinke stays healthy and plays at the steady level he did prior to his injury, Florida State certainly is a contender for all the Division I-A marbles.

SEMINOLES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Ron Dugans	6-3	190	Sr.	Laveranues Coles	6-1	195	Sr.
T	Ross Brannon	6-8	300	Jr.	Otis Duhart	6-4	285	Jr.
G	Jason Whitaker	6-5	300	Sr.	Justin Amman	6-4	295	Jr.
C	Eric Thomas	6-3	295	Sr.	Jarad Moon	6-4	291	Jr.
G	Jerry Carmichael	6-4	310	Jr.	Donald Heaven	6-5	305	Jr.
T	Tarlos Thomas	6-5	310	Jr.	Char-ron Dorsey	6-7	325	Jr.
TE	Nick Franklin	6-3	265	Sr.	Ryan Sprague	6-5	260	Jr.
WR	Peter Warrick	6-0	190	Sr.	Germaine Stringer	5-11	185	Sr.
QB	Chris Weinke	6-5	225	Jr.	Marcus Outzen	6-2	220	Jr.
TB	Travis Minor	6-1	190	Jr.	Jeff Chaney	6-0	200	Jr.
FB	William McCray	6-0	222	Jr.	Dan Kendra	6-2	240	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Jamal Reynolds	6-4	240	Jr.	Chris Walker	6-6	225	Sr.
NT	Corey Simon	6-4	275	Sr.	*Chris Woods	6-3	244	Fr.
T	Jerry Johnson	6-2	280	Sr.	Bryne Malone	6-7	263	Jr.
E	Roland Seymour	6-4	264	Jr.	David Warren	6-5	240	Jr.
OLB	Tommy Polley	6-5	233	Jr.	Theon Rackley	6-2	228	Sr.
MLB	Bradley Jennings	6-3	230	So.	*Jerel Hudson	6-3	230	Fr.
OLB	Brian Allen	6-2	225	Jr.	Bobby Rhodes	6-1	215	Sr.
CB	Reggie Durden	5-9	175	Sr.	Mario Edwards	6-2	195	Sr.
SS	Derrick Gibson	6-2	200	Jr.	Abdual Howard	6-1	190	So.
FS	Sean Key	6-1	190	Sr.	Chris Hope	6-2	195	So.
CB	Clevan Thomas	6-0	175	Jr.	Tay Cody	5-11	180	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Sebastian Janikowski	6-2	255	Jr.	P	Keith Cottrell	6-4	205	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

2 Georgia Tech

Site: Atlanta
Coach: George O'Leary (28-21, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ralph Friedgen (7th season)
Defensive coordinator: Ted Roof (1st season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 38
Stadium: Bobby Dodd (grass, 46,000)
Last league title won: 1998 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 11th
1998 record: 10-2 (beat Notre Dame in Gator Bowl); Atlantic Coast: 7-1 (tie 1st)

1998 RESULTS

Boston College, L 41-31
 New Mexico State, W 42-7
 at North Carolina, W 43-21
 Duke, W 41-13
 at N.C. State, 47-24
 Virginia, W 41-38
 Florida State, L 34-7
 Maryland, W 31-10
 at Clemson, W 24-21
 Wake Forest, W 63-35
 at Georgia, W 21-19
 Notre Dame, W 35-28

SCHEDULE

S4—at Navy
 S11—at Florida State
 S18—Central Florida
 S30—Maryland
 O9—North Carolina
 O16—at Duke
 O30—North Carolina State
 N6—at Virginia
 N13—Clemson
 N20—at Wake Forest
 N27—Georgia

NATIONAL RANK
14

Quarterbacks: Joe Hamilton, a first-team All-ACC selection last year as a junior, has passed for more than 5,800 yards and 36 touchdowns during his career, but that only begins to tell the story of his worth to the offense and program. Hamilton also has rushed for more than 1,000 yards. Georgia Tech has

gone 13-3 in its last 16 games, including two bowl victories in which Hamilton was selected the MVP. He led three fourth-quarter comeback wins last year.

Running backs: Joe Burns started only three games last year as a freshman but led the Yellow Jackets in rushing with 474 yards. That gives him the edge over senior Phillip Rogers, who has rushed for almost 1,000 career yards. Tech was unsuccessful in getting a sixth year for Charles Wiley, but he would have had a hard time winning the starting job at tailback or fullback. Beefy Ed Wilder is the fullback.

Receivers: Dez White virtually came out of nowhere in 1998 to become one of the ACC's best receivers, catching nine touchdown passes. Jon Muires, a former starter at free safety, was to have been a starter in 1998 until a foot injury sidelined him for the season. Kelly Campbell showed promise as a true freshman, and redshirt freshman Kerry Watkins is considered a potential star.

Offensive line: Jon Carman, one of the biggest ACC players ever at 6-8, 335 pounds, has turned into a legitimate All-ACC candidate at right tackle. Noah King, a starter at left guard in the last five games last season, has moved to center in hopes of replacing Craig Page, voted the ACC's top blocker last year. Despite operations to his shoulder and wrist, left tackle Chris Brown should be ready this fall.

Defensive line: End Felipe Claybrooks, who ranked third in the ACC in sacks last year, is back; he wasn't a starter and didn't play in run situations. The tackles, sophomores Merrix Watson and Guenter Kryszon, are returning starters. Tech ranked eighth in the ACC in total defense and seventh in rushing defense last season, so there is considerable room for improvement.

Linebackers: The Yellow Jackets aren't sure when they will regain the services of inside linebacker Matt Uremovich, who was suspended after the fifth game last season for reportedly using a banned substance. Matt Miller, the team's second-leading tackler last season, missed spring practice because he was still recovering from a knee injury. Promising Chris Edwards could blossom at an outside position.

Secondary: The Yellow Jackets say that senior free safety Travares Tillman is one of the best players they have had at the position. The other safety spot is a

question. There is talent at cornerback, which boasts two of the top athletes on the team in Marvious Hester and Troy Tolbert, as well as Jamara Clark.

Special teams: The kicking game will get plenty of attention from coach George O'Leary. Tech must replace kicker Brad Chambers and first-team All-ACC punter Rodney Williams. The Yellow Jackets signed kicker Luke Manget and punter/kicker Phillip Newman. White is one of three players in school history with two touchdowns on kickoff returns.

Schedule: After visiting Navy in the opener, the



SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN

Cashing in: Tech needs its defense, led by Tillman, to duplicate last year, when it set an NCAA record with seven fumble returns for TDs.

Yellow Jackets play Florida State in Tallahassee, where the Seminoles are 28-0 against ACC teams since joining the conference. Georgia Tech also plays at Virginia. A top-10 ranking could be on the line when Georgia visits for the season finale.

Coaching: O'Leary made changes in his defensive staff. Ted Roof is the new coordinator, replacing Randy Edsall, gone after one season to coach Connecticut. Other newcomers are Danny Crossan (ends/special teams), Dave Sollazzo (line) and Paul Ferraro (secondary).

Outlook: Tech's potent offense will afford the Jackets a chance to repeat as ACC champions. But the defense must improve. Tech can't count on getting 11 touchdowns from its defense and special teams again this season.

YELLOW JACKETS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Dez White	6-1 214 Jr.	Brett Baszuin	6-1 198 Jr.
T	Chris Brown	6-6 315 Jr.	Kevin Knapp	6-4 287 Jr.
G	Jason Burks	6-5 287 Sr.	Brian Meager	6-5 265 So.
C	Noah King	6-2 272 Sr.	David Schmidgall	6-2 261 Jr.
G	Brent Key	6-5 280 Jr.	Jesse Moody	6-5 300 So.
T	Jon Carman	6-8 335 Sr.	*Dustin Vaitekunas	6-7 314 Fr.
TE	Conrad Andrzejewski	6-2 233 Sr.	Russell Matvey	6-4 236 So.
WR	*Kerry Watkins	5-11 180 Fr.	Kelly Campbell	5-11 161 So.
QB	Joe Hamilton	5-10 189 Sr.	George Godsey	6-2 202 So.
RB	Joe Burns	5-10 199 So.	Phillip Rogers	6-1 220 Sr.
FB	Ed Wilder	6-2 255 Jr.	Josh Long	6-3 225 So.

DEFENSE

E	Felipe Claybrooks	6-5 260 Jr.	Fred Wright	6-4 250 Fr.
T	Guenter Kryszon	6-4 271 So.	*Berwin Echols	6-3 319 Fr.
T	Merrix Watson	6-3 290 So.	Bryan Corhen	6-4 302 Jr.
E	Andy Josephson	6-3 260 Jr.	Ira Claxton	6-5 261 Jr.
OLB	Chris Edwards	6-5 231 Sr.	Donte Booker	5-11 227 Sr.
MLB	Matt Miller	6-4 230 Jr.	*Kelvin Hughley	6-2 250 Fr.
OLB	Nick Rogers	6-2 234 So.	Ross Mitchell	6-2 230 So.
CB	Troy Tolbert	6-1 195 Jr.	Derrick Dudley	5-10 177 Jr.
SS	Chris Young	6-0 193 So.	Adam Polak	5-11 198 Jr.
FS	Travares Tillman	6-2 190 Sr.	Reggie Wilcox	6-1 190 Sr.
CB	Jamara Clark	5-8 170 Jr.	*Marvious Hester	5-11 160 Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Luke Manget	5-11 180 Fr.	P	Phillip Newman	6-1 180 Fr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

3 North Carolina

Site: Chapel Hill
Coach: Carl Torbush (8-5, 1 year; 11-13 overall, 2 years)

Offensive coordinator: Steve Marshall (2nd season)

Defensive coordinator: Carl Torbush (12th season)

Offensive scheme: pro set

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 11

Lettermen lost: 19

Lettermen returning: 45

Stadium: Kenan (grass, 60,000)

Last league title won: 1980

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1991

1998 TSN rank: 39th

1998 record: 7-5 (beat San Diego State in Las Vegas Bowl); Atlantic Coast: 5-3 (tie 4th)

1998 RESULTS

Miami (Ohio), L 13-10
 at Stanford, L 37-34
 Georgia Tech, L 43-21
 Clemson, W 21-14
 Pittsburgh, W 29-10
 at Wake Forest, W 38-31
 at Florida State, L 39-13
 Maryland, W 24-13
 at Virginia, L 30-13
 at Duke, W 28-6
 North Carolina St., W 37-34
 San Diego State, W 20-13

SCHEDULE

S4—Virginia
 S11—at Indiana
 S25—Florida State
 O2—at Clemson
 O9—at Georgia Tech
 O16—Houston
 O23—at Maryland
 O30—Furman
 N6—Wake Forest
 N11—N.C. State*
 N20—Duke
 *at Charlotte, N.C.

NATIONAL RANK
28

Quarterbacks: Ronald Curry may not have lived up to some expectations in '98, but he was second in the ACC rookie of the year balloting and was named offensive MVP in the Tar Heels' 20-13 victory over San Diego State in the Las Vegas Bowl. Although inexperience clearly hindered him at times last season,

particularly when fifth-year senior Oscar Davenport was injured in the opener, Curry was impressive as a runner and scrambler—he led the Tar Heels with 1,394 total yards—and should be a more polished passer as a sophomore. Luke Huard, who was redshirted last year, will be the backup.

Running backs: Four players started at tailback last season. All four return, but none may start. Dmonique Williams, projected as the '98 starter before he was declared academically ineligible, returned for spring practice and joins freshman recruit Daniel Davis as challengers to Rufus Brown, last year's rushing leader (534 yards). Deon Dyer, one of the top fullbacks in the nation, is a terrific blocker, and he rushed for six touchdowns last year.

Receivers: An early, season-ending injury to Jason Peace created an opportunity for Kory Bailey, who set a North Carolina freshman record with 38 receptions (four for TDs) last year. Peace is back, but Bailey will be needed more than ever with the departure of Na Brown and L.C. Stevens. There will be little experience when Carolina goes to three- and four-wide receiver sets.

Offensive line: The best Carolina player might be tight end Alge Crumpler, who missed the '98 season because of torn knee ligaments. Crumpler's return will allow Allen Mogridge (6-4, 280), the starter at tight end last season, to move to tackle. It has been several years since the Tar Heels had a premier offensive line; this year's unit has considerable depth, experience and size. Junior tackle James Wagstaff is 6-4, 360 pounds. Guard Bryan Jones (6-4, 285) probably is the most consistent lineman.

Defensive line: Redshirt freshman Julius Peppers, who moved from tight end to defensive end last season, is the best-known of a group of young players who must replace Ebenezer Ekuban (23 tackles for losses last season) and Mike Pringley. Sherrod Peace, a rare junior college transfer at North Carolina, played well at tackle last year and should ease the adjustment for first-year starter Ryan Sims at the other spot.

Linebackers: Brandon Spoon (138 tackles) is the top returning tackler in the ACC. He'll have Sedrick Hodge, a 23-foot long jumper, and Merceda Perry, the top reserve last season, beside him. The Tar Heels will miss Keith Newman, who was sixth in the ACC in tackles with 132.

Secondary: The early departure to the NFL of Dre' Bly left Errol Hood and Anthony Anderson as the only scholarship cornerbacks for spring practice. That's one reason Carolina signed six cornerbacks, several of whom will have to play. Free safety Billy-Dee Greenwood began to fulfill some of his promise last year and no longer will share time with Antwon Black, who moves to strong safety.

Special teams: Josh McGee made 14 of 18 field-goal attempts last season despite suffering a torn knee ligament while playing touch football in mid-October.



DOB LEVERONE / TSN

Sneak preview: Look for Curry, who was impressive running with the ball last season, to become more adept at passing this season.

Punter Brian Schmitz's 44.8-yard average led the ACC. Schmitz also handles kickoffs.

Schedule: The Tar Heels have a chance to set a tone for the season when they play host to Virginia on September 4. The non-conference schedule—at Indiana, home games with Houston and Furman—does not bode a program of this caliber.

Coaching: In Carl Torbush's first season, the Tar Heels became the first team in school history to post a winning record after opening 0-3. Coordinator Steve Marshall is hoping for a better offensive performance in '99. The Tar Heels finished seventh in the ACC in offense (328.7-yard average) last year.

Outlook: Expect Carolina to go to a bowl for the eighth year in a row. But it won't finish higher than third in the ACC unless it can win at Georgia Tech.

TAR HEELS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Greg Harris	6-2	215	Sr.	*DeFonte Coleman	6-1	210	Fr.
T	Kareem Ellis	6-5	312	Sr.	Louis Marchetti	6-6	280	Sr.
G	Mike Gimbol	6-4	310	Sr.	Joe Ellison	6-3	290	Sr.
C	Ryan Carfley	6-1	300	Sr.	Adam Melts	6-1	270	So.
G	Bryan Jones	6-4	285	Sr.	*Isaac Morford	6-3	295	Fr.
T	Allen Mogridge	6-4	280	Sr.	James Wagstaff	6-4	360	Jr.
TE	Alge Crumpler	6-3	260	Jr.	Dauntae Finger	6-4	260	Jr.
WR	Kory Bailey	6-1	190	So.	Danny Davis	6-0	185	So.
QB	Ronald Curry	6-2	205	So.	*Luke Huard	6-4	215	Fr.
RB	Rufus Brown	6-1	215	So.	Anthony Saunders	6-1	225	So.
FB	Deon Dyer	5-11	255	Sr.	Ronnie Robinson	6-1	235	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	*Julius Peppers	6-6	280	Fr.	Stephon McQueen	6-4	260	Jr.
T	Ryan Sims	6-3	300	So.	*Brian Norwood	6-4	290	Fr.
E	Sherrod Peace	6-3	270	Sr.	Anthony Perkins	6-4	245	Jr.
T	Joey Evans	6-4	255	So.	*Eric Davis	6-3	255	Fr.
OLB	Sedrick Hodge	6-4	230	Jr.	Quincy Monk	6-3	235	So.
MLB	Merceda Perry	6-4	250	Jr.	Tim Burgess	6-1	245	Jr.
OLB	Brandon Spoon	6-2	240	Sr.	Shawn Woodard	6-1	220	Sr.
CB	Anthony Anderson	5-8	175	So.	Jason Horton	6-0	175	So.
SS	Quinton Savage	5-11	195	Jr.	Antwon Black	5-11	190	Jr.
FS	Billy-Dee Greenwood	6-1	185	So.	Nathan Sutton	5-10	175	So.
CB	Errol Hood	5-10	190	So.	David Thornton	6-2	200	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Josh McGee	5-9	180	Sr.	P	Brian Schmitz	6-1	165	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

4 Virginia

Site: Charlottesville
Coach: George Welsh
 (121-75-3, 17 years; 176-121-4 overall, 26 years)
Offensive coordinator:
 Gary Tranquill (1st season)
Defensive coordinator:
 Rich Lantz (9th season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 40
Stadium: Scott (grass, 44,000)
Last league title won:
 1995 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 17th
1998 record: 9-3 (lost to Georgia in Peach Bowl); Atlantic Coast: 6-2 (3rd)

1998 RESULTS

at Auburn, W 19-0
 Maryland, W 31-19
 Clemson, W 20-18
 at Duke, W, 24-0
 San Jose State, W 52-14
 at Georgia Tech, L 41-38
 North Carolina St. W 23-13
 at Wake Forest, W 38-17
 at Florida State, L 45-14
 North Carolina, W 30-13
 at Virginia Tech, W 36-32
 Georgia, L 35-33

SCHEDULE

S4—at North Carolina
 S11—at Clemson
 S18—Wake Forest
 S25—at Brigham Young
 O2—Virginia Tech
 O9—Duke
 O16—at North Carolina St.
 O30—Florida State
 N6—Georgia Tech
 N13—Buffalo
 N20—at Maryland

NATIONAL RANK 41

Quarterbacks: Dan Ellis, the heir apparent to Aaron Brooks for two years, does not have Brooks' height, arm or mobility, but he came to Virginia with a reputation for producing in the clutch. His intelligence has allowed him to pick up new offensive coordinator Gary Tranquill's system. There is

almost no experience behind Ellis. Projected backup David Rivers did not attempt a pass in 1998.

Running backs: In a conference that did not have another 1,000-yard rusher, Thomas Jones rushed for more than 1,300 yards last season and could duplicate that this year behind an experienced line and without an established quarterback. Jones also has 49 receptions in his career, including 45 the past two seasons. Fullback Anthony Southern is a proven pass catcher.

Receivers: Despite a career average of 23.2 yards a reception—best in school history—Kevin Coffey is more of a possession receiver than a deep threat. The Cavaliers' game-breaking receiver last year was fifth-year senior Terrence Wilkins. Ahmad Hawkins and James Johnson need to assume that role.

Offensive line: Three Cavaliers earned first-team All-ACC citations last year, and two are back—tight end Casey Crawford and guard Noel LaMontagne. Center John St. Clair was a second-team choice. There is youth elsewhere on the line in tackle Josh Lawson and guard Evan Routzahn, both of whom started as redshirt freshmen in last year's Peach Bowl.

Defensive line: The Cavaliers have moved end Travis Griffith from the left side to the right in hopes that he can provide some of the big-play ability provided last year by Patrick Kerney, whose 15 sacks led the ACC. Kerney and tackle Antonio Dingle are gone to the NFL. The Cavaliers think they have a future star in tackle Monsanto Pope, who received ample playing time last year as a freshman. Fifth-year senior Maurice Anderson has considerable ability and could have a big year if he's healthy.

Linebackers: The Cavaliers were pleased with what they saw in spring practice from middle linebacker Yubrenal Isabelle, a once-touted prospect who mostly watched Wali Rainer the past two seasons. Isabelle's rise means that Virginia can keep Byron Thweatt (196 career tackles) and Donny Green as starters on the outside for a third straight year.

Secondary: Virginia became accustomed to life without stellar safety Anthony Poinexter when he suffered a season-ending knee injury in the seventh game last season. Poinexter and safety Adrian Burnim are gone, and converted cornerback Antwan Harris is the only experienced returnee at either spot. Cornerback

Dwayne Stukes was dogged by a hamstring problem last season. Stukes and Tim Spruill give Virginia one of the ACC's best sets of corners.

Special teams: Todd Braverman made only three of his final nine field-goal attempts last season, including a 48-yard miss in the closing seconds that would have beaten Georgia in the Peach Bowl. He needs to regain the coaches' confidence. Walk-on punter Donnie Scott was a real find; he had five punts of 60 yards or more, a school record.

Schedule: The Cavaliers open with games at North



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Reserved Cavalier: Thweatt, a two-year returning starter, isn't as flashy as some of his defensive teammates, but he gets the job done.

Carolina and Clemson, and visit Brigham Young in the fourth week before playing host to Virginia Tech. They can only hope they're not cooked by the time they play host to Buffalo and visit Maryland to close the season.

Coaching: Many people were confused when George Welsh parted company with offensive coordinator Sparky Woods, who now is running the offense at Mississippi State, after two seasons. Welsh isn't as comfortable with anyone as he is Tranquill, who most recently was the offensive coordinator at Michigan State.

Outlook: Virginia has not failed to win seven games in a season since 1987, and Welsh rejects the notion that the Cavaliers are rebuilding. Nevertheless, it will be hard to duplicate last year's 9-3 record.

CAVALIERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Kevin Coffey	6-4	197	Jr.	Demetrius Dotson	6-0	190	Jr.
T Josh Lawson	6-5	293	So.	Jared Woodson	6-6	285	So.
G Noel LaMontagne	6-5	302	Sr.	*Butch Jefferson	6-4	300	Fr.
C John St. Clair	6-5	295	Sr.	Dustin Keith	6-5	285	Jr.
G Evan Routzahn	6-5	305	So.	Brad Barnes	6-7	310	Jr.
T Brad Barnes	6-7	310	Jr.	Jermese Jones	6-6	315	Jr.
TE Casey Crawford	6-6	250	Sr.	Billy Baber	6-4	244	Jr.
WR Ahmad Hawkins	5-10	193	Jr.	James Johnson	6-1	180	So.
QB Dan Ellis	6-2	210	Jr.	David Rivers	6-3	220	Jr.
RB Thomas Jones	5-10	205	Sr.	*Arlen Harris	5-11	195	Fr.
FB Anthony Southern	6-0	239	Sr.	Patrick Washington	6-3	234	Jr.

DEFENSE

E Travis Griffith	6-3	255	Sr.	*Antonio Mayfield	6-3	215	Fr.
T Maurice Anderson	6-3	285	Sr.	Monsanto Pope	6-3	265	So.
T Kofi Bawuah	6-2	280	Jr.	Johnny Shivers	6-5	300	Sr.
E Darryl Sanders	6-3	265	So.	Ljubomir Stamenich	6-3	255	So.
OLB Donny Green	6-2	225	Jr.	Shannon Taylor	6-3	249	Sr.
MLB Yubrenal Isabelle	6-1	235	Jr.	William Clark	6-0	210	So.
OLB Byron Thweatt	6-2	230	Jr.	Earl Sims	6-1	223	Jr.
CB Dwayne Stukes	5-11	195	Sr.	Jason Small	6-1	195	Jr.
SS *Shernard Newby	6-1	190	Fr.	*Chris Williams	6-3	190	Fr.
FS Antwan Harris	5-10	185	Sr.	Jermaine Lauzon	6-3	190	So.
CB Tim Spruill	5-10	175	Jr.	Jermaine Lauzon	6-3	190	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Todd Braverman	5-7	167	Jr.	P Donnie Scott	6-5	210	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

5 North Carolina State

Site: Raleigh

Coach: Mike O'Cain (35-34, 6 years)

Offensive coordinator: Jimmy Kiser (3rd season)

Defensive co-coordinators: Jeff Snipes and Kent Briggs (4th season for both)

Offensive scheme: Multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 10

Lettermen lost: 18

Lettermen returning: 40

Stadium: Carter-Finley (grass, 51,500)

Last league title won: 1979

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997

1998 TSN rank: 34th

1998 record: 7-5 (lost to Miami, Fla., in Micron PC Bowl); ACC: 5-3 (tie 4th)

1998 RESULTS

Ohio, W 34-31

Florida State, W 24-7

at Baylor, L 33-30

Syracuse, W 38-17

Georgia Tech, L 47-24

Duke, W 27-24

at Virginia, L 23-13

at Clemson, W 46-39

Wake Forest, W 38-27

at Maryland, W 35-21

North Carolina, L 37-34

Miami, Fla., L 46-23

SCHEDULE

A28—at Texas

S4—South Carolina

S11—William & Mary

S18—at Florida State

S25—at Wake Forest

O9—Clemson

O16—Virginia

O23—at Duke

O30—at Georgia Tech

N6—Maryland

N11—North Carolina*

N20—at East Carolina

*at Charlotte

NATIONAL
RANK
42

Quarterbacks: No other ACC quarterback has thrown for as many yards in his first three seasons (7,141) as Jamie Barnette. He has good mobility, but mostly runs to avoid pass rushers. Charles Berry has transferred to I-AA James Madison, leaving Grant Dorn as the No. 2 quarterback.

Running backs: A shoulder injury to Rahshon Spikes last year created an opportunity for Ray Robinson, who rushed for 202 yards against Virginia. Spikes is recovered and is expected to share time with Robinson. Fullbacks Derek Roberts and Quincy King are raw—they've never played the position in college.

Receivers: With Torry Holt, the 1998 ACC Player of the Year, gone to the NFL, Chris Coleman will be the featured receiver. Coleman, who had 52 receptions in '98, lacks Holt's ability after the catch. Koren Robinson, who caught five passes for 99 yards and returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown in the Wolfpack's Red-White game that ended spring practice, is a potential star. Ryan Hamrick, who made several key catches in '98, also is back. At tight end, look for Andy VanDerVeer to hold off former defensive players Tramayne Simmons and Cecil McCurdy.

Offensive line: North Carolina State ranked first in the ACC and 20th in Division I-A in offense last year, yet didn't have a first-team all-ACC lineman. Keegan Weir is the center, and Todd Boyle and Jarvis Borum will be the tackles. A neck injury has ended the career of Alex Rice, who was a part-time starter at guard. Ryan Knudtson and Alex Santos will start at the guard spots. This unit, which doesn't have a lot of starting experience, must gel if the offense is to be successful.

Defensive line: This was one of State's weaker units in '98. Starting ends Bobbie Cotten and Greg Derrick are gone and will be replaced by Corey Smith and Clint Johnson. Returning tackles Rashad Streets, Darius Bryant, Jeff Fisher, Nate Goodson and Jeff Kuh all started at least one game in '98. Bryant and Fisher will start, and the others should provide quality depth.

Linebackers: Edrick Smith led ACC freshmen in tackles last season (94) and is one of the league's top inside linebackers. Clayton White was the team's second-leading tackler (99), and Levar Fisher is a third returning starter. Corey Lyons, William Pannell, Sheldon Kee and Brian Jamison are quality reserves.

Secondary: Cornerback Lloyd Harrison led the ACC in passes broken up (23) in '98, a season after fellow corner Tony Scott led the conference in the same category. Safeties Rodney Redd and Jason Perry are gone and will be difficult to replace. Strong safety Adrian

Wilson and free safety Brian Williams are the leading candidates.

Special teams: Scott Earwood punted last season despite a stress fracture in his shin, which contributed to his ACC-worst 37-yard average. When healthy, Earwood is capable of punting and kicking. Kent Passingham has a strong leg, but lost the kicking job last season because he lacked consistency.

Schedule: The Wolfpack opens the season at Texas in the Black Coaches Association Classic—a 12th game for North Carolina State. Next, South Carolina, coached



Stand-up guy: N.C. State's bowl hopes probably ride on the ability of an inexperienced offensive line to keep Barnette in one piece.

by former Wolfpack coach Lou Holtz, visits Raleigh. For the second straight season, the Wolfpack plays North Carolina in Charlotte at Ericsson Stadium.

Coaching: Don Treadwell left Boston College to replace longtime running backs coach Dick Portee, who went to the Cleveland Browns. Otherwise, Mike O'Cain's staff is intact a year after he received a new contract.

Outlook: State's trip to the Micron PC Bowl last season marked its first postseason appearance since the 1994 season. For the Wolfpack to gain a second consecutive bowl bid, it must find a big-play threat—Robinson is the best candidate—to fill the void left by Holt. Success also will depend on how well both lines are fortified.

WOLFPACK DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Chris Coleman	6-0	203	Sr.	Ricky Collins	6-3	193	So.
T	Jarvis Borum	6-8	332	Jr.	Matt Broel	6-5	292	So.
G	Alex Santos	6-3	316	Sr.	John Fletcher	6-8	317	Sr.
C	Keegan Weir	6-5	280	So.	*Derek Green	6-4	245	Fr.
G	Ryan Knudtson	6-5	293	Sr.	Mel Quitman	6-3	320	So.
T	Todd Boyle	6-7	303	Sr.	*Tim Turner	6-7	350	Fr.
TE	Andy VanDerVeer	6-5	250	So.	Cecil McCurdy	6-4	264	Jr.
WR	Ryan Hamrick	6-3	205	Sr.	*Koren Robinson	6-2	190	Fr.
QB	Jamie Barnette	6-0	190	Sr.	Grant Dorn	6-4	200	Jr.
RB	Rahshon Spikes	5-11	204	Sr.	Derek Roberts	6-2	225	Sr.
RB	Ray Robinson	5-10	199	So.	Eric Leak	5-9	184	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Clint Johnson	6-3	256	Jr.	*Shane Riggs	6-4	250	Fr.
T	Jeff Fisher	6-2	280	Jr.	Rashad Streets	6-2	286	Jr.
T	Darius Bryant	6-2	299	So.	Jeff Kuh	6-4	258	Jr.
E	Corey Smith	6-3	238	So.	Brian Jamison	6-2	215	So.
OLB	Levar Fisher	6-1	223	So.	William Pannell	6-4	219	So.
MLB	Edrick Smith	6-1	235	So.	Sheldon Kee	6-0	247	Sr.
OLB	Clayton White	6-0	224	Jr.	Corey Lyons	5-11	199	So.
CB	Lloyd Harrison	5-11	193	Sr.	Marcelle Hough	5-10	175	Sr.
SS	Adrian Wilson	6-3	195	So.	Erik Riddick	6-1	185	Sr.
FS	Brian Williams	6-0	184	So.	*Terrence Holt	6-3	187	Fr.
CB	Tony Scott	5-11	187	Sr.	Anthony Cason	5-10	170	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Kent Passingham	5-10	165	Jr.	P	Scott Earwood	6-1	207	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold. *Redshirt

6 Clemson

Site: Clemson, S.C.
Coach: Tommy Bowden (first year; 19-4 overall, 2 years)
Offensive coordinator: Rich Rodriguez (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Reggie Herring (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 14
Lettermen lost: 22
Lettermen returning: 44
Stadium: Memorial (grass, 81,473)
Last league title won: 1991
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 65th
1998 record: 3-8; Atlantic Coast 1-7 (tie 8th)

1998 RESULTS

Furman, W 33-0
 Virginia Tech, L 37-0
 at Virginia, L 20-18
 Wake Forest, L, 29-19
 at North Carolina, L 21-14
 Maryland, W 23-0
 at Florida State, L 48-0
 at Duke, L 28-23
 North Carolina St., L 46-39
 Georgia Tech, L 24-21
 South Carolina, W 28-19

SCHEDULE

S4—Marshall
 S11—Virginia
 S23—at Virginia Tech
 O2—North Carolina
 O9—at North Carolina St.
 O16—at Maryland
 O23—Florida State
 O30—at Wake Forest
 N6—Duke
 N13—at Georgia Tech
 N20—at South Carolina

NATIONAL RANK
54

Quarterbacks: After a rough start, Brandon Streeter passed for 887 yards and nine touchdowns in the final four games last season. In the process, he silenced fans who were calling for redshirt freshman Woodrow Dantzler. Dantzler has a bright future. He passed for 220 yards and two touchdowns in the

spring game and is a better rushing threat than Streeter.

Running backs: The Tigers, once known for their grind-it-out offense, were eighth in the ACC and 90th in Division I-A in rushing (120.4 yards a game) last year. Sophomore Travis Zachery, the top returning rusher (635 yards, four touchdowns as a freshman), was suspended before spring practice for violating team rules. For now, burly Jarvis Austin will carry the load. Vince Ciurciu, recruited as a fullback, got a shot at tailback in the spring and looked good. Terry Witherspoon has the inside track at fullback.

Receivers: Brian Wofford, Mal Lawyer and Rod Gardner give first-year coach Tommy Bowden a high-quality corps of receivers for the passing game he hopes to develop. The Tigers have nine scholarship receivers, and Bowden will use all of them; he wishes he had 10 receivers for the three-, four- and five-wide receiver sets he favors.

Offensive line: Clemson doesn't return a starter on this unit—the first time that has happened since 1943, when all the returning starters were drafted into military service for World War II. Kyle Young, moving from guard to center, is the only returnee who has started any games in his college career. Tackle Akil Smith averaged 43 snaps in the last four games of '98 as a true freshman.

Defensive line: The loss of Rahim Abdullah and Adrian Dingle leaves Clemson with little experience at the pass-rushing positions. Gary Childress and Terry Bryant, who started nine and eight games, respectively, at the tackle spots on Clemson's five-man line last year, will line up at end in the Tigers' new 4-3 alignment. Redshirt freshman Nick Eason put in a bid for playing time when he recorded three sacks in a spring scrimmage.

Linebackers: Outside linebacker Harold Means comes from the same program in Spartanburg, S.C., as former Clemson All-American Anthony Simmons, and defensive coordinator Reggie Herring would be happy with the same kind of production. Middle linebacker Keith Adams played well as a true freshman and had 10 tackles against Georgia Tech. Chris Jones (128 tackles) passed up his final season of eligibility.

Secondary: DoMarco Fox has moved from free safety to strong safety. The task of replacing first-team All-ACC cornerback Antuan Edwards falls to Dextra

Polite. Robert Carswell, who had 102 tackles as a sophomore, has switched from strong to free safety. Alex Ardley, who broke up 10 passes as a freshman last season, survived a spring brush with Bowden; he was kicked out of practice, then was reinstated after a meeting with the coach.

Special teams: No player on the roster has kicked or punted in a college game. Tony Lazzara, who was not on Clemson's roster last fall, kicked field goals of 33, 19 and 35 yards in the spring game.

Schedule: After the opener against Marshall,



Ready for flight: With a good corps of wideouts, including Wofford, Clemson's new passing attack won't lack for weapons.

Clemson plays four consecutive games against opponents who beat the Tigers last year en route to bowl appearances. No game will get more attention than the October 23 home game with Florida State, which will feature the first father-vs.-son coaching matchup in Division I-A history.

Coaching: When Tulane didn't promote offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez to succeed Bowden, Rodriguez joined Bowden at Clemson. Bowden's staff also includes Brad Scott, most recently the head coach at South Carolina.

Outlook: Coming off a 3-8 season, its worst since 1976, Clemson might appear to have a long way to go to return to respectability. But the Tigers lost games by two, three, five, seven, seven and 10 points, and were out of only two games.

TIGERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Mal Lawyer	6-0	187	Sr.	Rod Gardner	6-4	217	Jr.
T	John McDermott	6-6	278	Jr.	*Brady Washburn	6-6	280	Fr.
G	Theo Mougros	6-2	270	Jr.	Neely Page	6-4	293	So.
C	Kyle Young	6-3	280	So.	Brian Outlaw	6-2	249	Jr.
G	Will Merritt	6-3	274	So.	*Gary Byrd	6-4	318	Fr.
T	Akil Smith	6-4	280	So.	*Nate Gillespie	6-3	290	Fr.
TE	T.J. Watkins	6-3	257	So.	*Jason Lemay	6-4	246	Fr.
WR	Brian Wofford	6-1	170	Sr.	*Jackie Robinson	6-1	185	Fr.
QB	Brandon Streeter	6-3	197	Sr.	Woodrow Dantzler	5-11	200	So.
TB	Javis Austin	5-11	214	Jr.	*Gary Johnson	5-11	205	Fr.
FB	Terry Witherspoon	6-0	260	Sr.	Vince Ciurciu	6-0	223	So.

DEFENSE

E	Gary Childress	6-3	265	Jr.	*Nick Eason	6-3	250	Fr.
T	Terry Jolly	6-3	275	Jr.	Jason Holloman	6-3	274	Jr.
T	Damonte McKenzie	6-2	280	Sr.	Jovon Bush	6-5	283	So.
E	Terry Bryant	6-4	265	Jr.	*Bryant McNeal	6-3	265	Fr.
OLB	Harold Means	6-0	223	Sr.	Braxton Williams	6-2	220	So.
MLB	Keith Adams	5-11	220	So.	Chad Carson	6-2	230	So.
OLB	Altroy Bodrick	6-0	215	So.	J.J. McKelvey	6-4	195	Fr.
CB	Alex Ardley	5-10	171	So.	Darrel Crutchfield	6-1	176	Jr.
SS	DoMarco Fox	6-1	182	Sr.	Charles Hafley	6-1	196	So.
FS	Robert Carswell	6-0	208	Jr.	Chad Speck	6-0	205	Jr.
CB	Dextra Polite	6-0	185	Sr.	David Evans	5-8	179	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jamie Somaini	6-1	224	Jr.	P	Ryan Romano	5-11	180	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

7 Duke

Site: Durham, N.C.
Coach: Carl Franks (1st season)
Offensive coordinator: Carl Franks (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Bob Trott (4th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 3
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 47
Stadium: Wallace Wade (grass, 33,941)
Last league title won: 1989 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1998 TSN rank: 78th
1998 record: 4-7; Atlantic Coast: 2-6 (tie 6th)

1998 RESULTS

Western Carolina, W 24-10
 at Northwestern, W 44-10
 at Florida State, L 62-13
 Virginia, L 24-0
 at Georgia Tech, L 41-13
 at Wake Forest, W 19-16
 at North Carolina St., L 27-24
 Clemson, W 28-23
 at Vanderbilt, L 36-33 (OT)
 Maryland, L 42-25
 North Carolina, L 28-6

SCHEDULE

S11—at East Carolina
 S18—Northwestern
 S25—Vanderbilt
 O2—Florida State*
 O9—at Virginia
 O16—Georgia Tech
 O23—North Carolina State
 O30—at Maryland
 N6—at Clemson
 N13—Wake Forest
 N20—at North Carolina
 *at Jacksonville, Fla.

NATIONAL
RANK
87

Quarterbacks: Former coach Fred Goldsmith said last year that Duke would not have a quarterback controversy in 1999, suggesting that redshirted freshman D. Bryant would win the job. Bryant joined the football team after spending the winter with the basketball team, but it will be difficult for him to

supplant holdovers Spencer Romine and Bobby Campbell, who combined to pass for 489 yards in the spring game. Although Campbell started the last five games last season, Romine, who started the first five, entered preseason practice as the No. 1 quarterback.

Running backs: Projected as a defensive back when he arrived at Duke, B.J. Hill was pressed into service at running back and ranked fifth in the ACC in rushing as a freshman last year. Hill, who rushed for 798 yards, should have the edge over Letavious Wilks and Duane Epperson, the leading candidates for the job at the start of the 1998 season.

Receivers: Goldsmith once said that if Scottie Montgomery and Richmond Flowers could continue their early-season pace of 1998, they would become as famous in Durham, N.C., as Sears and Roebuck. When the Blue Devils lost three straight games to end the season, it tarnished some of their luster. Still, they combined for 108 receptions, almost 1,500 yards and seven touchdowns.

Offensive line: NFL draft pick Lennie Friedman is the only starter not returning on a line that also welcomes back tight end Terrence Dupree. But is that good? No Duke lineman was rated among the top seven players at his position in All-ACC nominations by league coaches last year.

Defensive line: Chris Combs, who was almost injury-free last year for the first time in his college career and responded with a first-team All-ACC season, is back. The decision by new coach Carl Franks to retain assistant coach Scott Brown was well-received by an experienced group that includes 6-8, 270-pound tackle Gannon Shepherd.

Linebackers: All four starters in Duke's 3-4 scheme return, including leading tackler Ryan Stallmeyer. Kevin Lewis was named the team's outstanding line-backer, and Todd DeLamielleure, son of assistant coach and former NFL standout Joe DeLamielleure, was impressive as a true freshman. Duke was fifth in the ACC in total defense last year, with a yield of 348.4 yards a game, down from 409.3 in 1997.

Secondary: Strong safety Darius Clark is entering his fourth year as a starter. Cornerback Lamar Grant has been a starter since midseason of his freshman year. Cornerback Eric Jones will be starting for a third straight season. Those seniors give Duke the most

experienced secondary in the ACC. The other corner-back is sophomore Ronnie Hamilton.

Special teams: Sims Lenhardt, a 1998 Groza Award finalist, set an ACC record with four field goals of more than 50 yards last season. Although Brian Morton was seventh in the ACC in punting, that's misleading. He has good hang time and aim.

Schedule: Franks, who arrives from Florida, has an advantage his predecessor didn't: non-conference home games with Northwestern and Vanderbilt. The third non-conference game will be at East Carolina.



BRUCE FEELEY / DUKE UNIVERSITY

Devil of a wideout: While Duke has questions in several areas, coaches know they can count on steady production from Montgomery.

Duke will receive close to \$1 million for moving its October 2 home game with Florida State to Jacksonville.

Coaching: Franks kept Goldsmith's coaching staff nearly intact, with one major exception. The new quarterbacks coach will be Franks' old Blue Devils teammate, Ben Bennett, who promises to utilize many of the same ideas he and Franks learned as players under Steve Spurrier, who is Franks' coaching mentor.

Outlook: With three games remaining last year, Duke was talking about a possible bowl bid. Then the Blue Devils lost to Vanderbilt 36-33 in overtime, and things never were the same for the team or Goldsmith. Duke might have been more successful if it hadn't ranked 102nd in Division I-A in turnover margin. Still, it's hard to envision this year's team being better than last year's.

BLUE DEVILS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Scottie Montgomery	6-1	195	Sr.	Kyle Moore	5-11	185	So.
T	Wes White	6-7	285	Jr.	Wally Niemcow	6-5	285	Jr.
G	Robert Fleming	6-3	270	Jr.	Mike Alberto	6-3	270	Jr.
C	Troy Andrew	6-5	280	Jr.	Kevin Schmidt	6-5	265	Jr.
G	Shawn Lynch	6-4	270	So.	John Miller	6-6	310	So.
T	Austin Smithwick	6-6	265	Sr.	*Greg Dufala	6-3	275	Fr.
TE	Terrence Dupree	6-4	250	Sr.	Mike Hart	6-6	240	So.
WR	Richmond Flowers	6-0	190	Jr.	Ben Erdelljac	6-0	195	So.
QB	Spencer Romine	6-3	195	Jr.	Bobby Campbell	6-5	215	Jr.
TB	B.J. Hill	5-11	200	So.	Letavious Wilks	5-9	185	Sr.
FB	Devin Pierce	5-10	225	Jr.	*Clayton Kennedy	6-1	235	Fr.

DEFENSE

E	Chris Combs	6-6	275	Sr.	Troy Austin	6-3	275	Jr.
NG	Mike Steinbaugh	6-4	250	Sr.	*Noah Wilson	6-1	265	Fr.
T	Gannon Shepherd	6-8	270	Sr.	Charles Porter	6-4	240	So.
OLB	Nate Krill	6-8	255	Jr.	Kendral Knight	6-4	230	Jr.
ILB	Todd DeLamielleure	6-0	225	So.	Levar Johnson	6-0	230	So.
ILB	Ryan Stallmeyer	6-1	225	Sr.	Randy Ament	6-1	225	Jr.
OLB	Kevin Lewis	6-1	225	Sr.	Brian McCormack	6-7	235	Sr.
CB	Lamar Grant	5-11	185	Sr.	Quintin Holley	6-0	185	So.
SS	Darius Clark	5-11	205	Sr.	Luke Roush	6-0	200	Jr.
FS	Eric Jones	6-0	180	Sr.	*Josh Kreider	6-1	195	Fr.
CB	Ronnie Hamilton	5-9	175	So.	*Derrick Lee	5-11	190	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Sims Lenhardt	5-11	185	Sr.	P	*Brian Morton	6-2	215	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

8 Wake Forest

Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.
Coach: Jim Caldwell (17-49, 6 years)

Offensive coordinator: Jim Caldwell (1st season)

Defensive coordinator: James Bell (2nd season)

Offensive scheme: Multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 8

Lettermen lost: 14

Lettermen returning: 49

Stadium: Groves (grass, 31,500)

Last league title won: 1970

Last bowl appearance: 1992

1998 TSN rank: 83rd

1998 record: 3-8; Atlantic Coast: 2-6 (tie 6th)

1998 RESULTS

at Air Force, L 42-0

Navy, W 26-14

at Clemson, W 29-19

Appalachian St., L 30-27 (OT)
 Duke, L 19-16

at Maryland, W 20-10

North Carolina, L 38-31

Virginia, L 38-17

at North Carolina St., L 38-27

Florida State, L 24-7

at Georgia Tech, L 63-35

SCHEDULE

S11—at Army

S18—at Virginia

S25—North Carolina State

O2—Rutgers

O9—Maryland

O16—at Florida State

O23—Ala.-Birmingham

O30—Clemson

N6—at North Carolina

N13—at Duke

N20—Georgia Tech

NATIONAL RANK
96

Quarterbacks: Freshman quarterback C.J. Leak is Wake's top recruit of the six-year Jim Caldwell era, and many are conceding him the starting job for the next four years—or for as long as he stays. Ben Sankey may have something to say about that. Sankey has started two games for the Demon

Deacons—both when Brian Kuklick was injured at the end of the 1997 season—and has thrown 181 passes. Over the last two seasons, Sankey completed 92 of 151 passes (60.9 percent).

Running backs: Tailback Morgan Kane got a look at fullback in spring practice as Wake attempted to jump-start a running game that finished 112th in Division I-A last year. Chris McCoy, who had 22 receptions last year, will compete with speedy Kito Gary (194 rushing yards) at tailback if Kane stays at fullback.

Receivers: Desmond Clark finished his career as the leading receiver in ACC history, but he wasn't Wake's top receiver last year. That distinction fell to Jammie Deese, who enters his senior year with 152 receptions, including 68 as a junior. If he does that again, he will erase Clark from the ACC record book. Marvin Chalmers and Ira Williams, the third and fourth receivers, combined for 55 receptions.

Offensive line: Jeff Flowe is certain to be missed at left tackle. The Deacons hope Marlon Curtis, who started seven games at center, will help fill that void. Michael Collins, a 6-6, 318-pounder who started six games as redshirt freshman last year, is expected to man the other tackle spot.

Defensive line: Tackle Da'Vaughn Mellerson didn't make it to the 1998 opener after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in spring practice that year. Kelvin Shackleford suffered a torn ACL in the third game, and Kelvin Jones missed three games because of a broken foot. All three are back, along with tackle Fred Robbins, a starter the last three years. End Mat Petz was a pleasant surprise in his first season as a starter, with 15 tackles for losses, including six sacks.

Linebackers: Kelvin Moses, who missed last season after undergoing knee surgery, was granted a sixth season of eligibility by the NCAA. He will join Dustin Lyman, who had 62 tackles before he suffered a season-ending knee injury in the fifth game last season. Outside man Abdul Guice, who had double-figure tackles in four games, has outstanding quickness.

Secondary: Opponents completed 59.5 percent of their passes last year against the Deacons, who were last in the ACC in pass-defense efficiency. Safety

DaLawn Parrish, who led the team in tackles, played outside linebacker for the last four games because of injuries to other players. Wake's 16 interceptions last year were its most in a decade.

Special teams: Matthew Burdick, who missed one field-goal attempt inside 45 yards last season, needs eight field goals to set the school career record. The Deacons will miss punter Tripp Moore, whose 42.9-yard average was second in the ACC last year.

Schedule: Wake gets off to a late start, opening at



WAKE FOREST

Don't blame me: Wake's offensive woes can't be laid at the feet of Deese, who is on pace to become the ACC's all-time leading receiver.

Army on September 11. The Deacons play Rutgers and Alabama-Birmingham at home later. They should go 2-1, if not 3-0, out of conference. They have a chance to build momentum during a midseason stretch when five of six games are at home.

Coaching: Caldwell fired offensive coordinator Hank Small after last season and assumed responsibility for the offense. Jamie Barressi and George Belu coordinate the passing and running games, respectively.

Outlook: Injuries took a toll on Wake Forest last season. The Deacons lost their last five games and finished 3-8, a step backward after a 5-6 season. The Deacons will be good enough defensively to compete with the teams in the ACC's second division. They must develop a semblance of a running game.

DEMON DEACONS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Marvin Chalmers	6-2	203	Sr.	William Merritt	6-0	198	Sr.
T	Marlon Curtis	6-3	300	Jr.	Todd Hollowell	6-7	300	Jr.
G	Brian Wolverton	6-5	310	Sr.	Chris Blank	6-5	272	Jr.
C	Vince Azzolina	6-4	302	So.	*Masanori Toguchi	6-3	286	Fr.
G	Sam Settar	6-4	320	Sr.	Mike Moosbrugger	6-7	304	So.
T	Michael Collins	6-6	318	So.	Alaric Thieshen	6-10	330	Jr.
TE	James Lik	6-6	240	Sr.	Ben Stafford	6-3	242	Sr.
WR	Jammie Deese	6-0	185	Sr.	Ira Williams	6-2	202	So.
QB	Ben Sankey	6-2	215	Sr.	*James MacPherson	6-2	195	Fr.
TB	Kito Gary	6-1	200	Sr.	Chris McCoy	5-7	216	Jr.
FB	Morgan Kane	6-1	220	Sr.	Matt Myers	6-2	233	So.

DEFENSE

E	Bryan Ray	6-3	245	Jr.	Brad Smith	6-3	261	Sr.
T	Fred Robbins	6-5	302	Sr.	Nathan Bolling	6-4	270	So.
T	Da'Vaughn Mellerson	6-5	298	Jr.	Kevin Shackleford	6-1	287	Sr.
E	Mat Petz	6-3	255	Jr.	Kevin Jones	6-1	275	Sr.
OLB	Mark DeOrto	6-1	210	So.	*Roderick Stephen	6-4	237	Fr.
LB	Kevin Moses	6-2	232	Sr.	Abdul Guice	6-3	195	Sr.
LB	Dustin Lyman	6-4	248	Sr.	Marquis Hopkins	6-2	248	So.
CB	Chris Justice	5-10	193	So.	Adrian Duncan	6-1	188	So.
SS	David Moore	6-2	197	Sr.	Michael Clinkscale	6-1	199	So.
FS	DaLawn Parrish	5-11	199	Sr.	Tehran Carpenter	6-3	198	So.
CB	Reggie Austin	5-11	174	Sr.	Keyshorn Smith	5-10	177	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Matthew Burdick	6-0	177	Sr.	P	*Matt Brennie	6-2	185	Fr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

9 Maryland

Site: College Park
Coach: Ron Vanderlinden (5-17, 2 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bob Heffner (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Wally Ake (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 33
Stadium: Byrd (grass, 48,055)
Last league title won: 1985
Last bowl appearance: 1990
1998 TSN rank: 93rd
1998 record: 3-8; Atlantic Coast: 1-7 (tie 8th)

NATIONAL RANK
98

Quarterbacks: Ken Mastrole began the '98 season as the starter and attempted more passes (131) than any other quarterback. He had one year of eligibility remaining, but transferred to Division I-AA Rhode Island after receiving no assurance that he would start or even be a factor this year.

Converted cornerback and option threat Randall Jones, the starter at the end of last season, will be challenged by redshirt freshman Calvin McCall and recruit Latrez Harrison.

Running backs: Tailback LaMont Jordan rushed for 1,595 yards in his first two seasons, including 906 in '98, when he ranked third in the ACC. He has a good shot to become the fourth back in school history—the first since 1982—to rush for 1,000 yards in one season. Backup tailback Harold Westley has 200 career carries. Matt Kalapinski is a proven fullback who rushed for 370 yards last year.

Receivers: The Terps' top five receivers return, including Jermaine Arrington, who was the only one with more than 20 receptions, and he had only 23. Guillan Gary, who did not catch a pass last year as a freshman, is intriguing because of his speed. Tight end John Waerig, a transfer from Wisconsin, was a pleasant surprise with his blocking and receiving (12 catches).

Offensive line: The line deserves a share of the credit for Maryland jumping from last in the ACC in rushing offense in 1997 to third last year, and four starters return. Coach Ron Vanderlinden thinks left tackle Brad Messina is an all-conference candidate and right guard Jamie Wu isn't far behind. Veteran line coach Elliot Uzelac, wanting more mobility, challenged his players to get under 300 pounds before spring practice.

Defensive line: Nose tackle Delbert Cowsette (22 consecutive starts) was named the team's top defensive lineman after a junior season in which he ranked third on the team in tackles behind linebackers Eric Barton and Kendall Ogle. Peter Timmins made a successful transition from H-back to defensive end. A pinched nerve kept tackle Kris Jenkins from starting the last three games last season. He's back, and so is backup Charles Hill.

Linebackers: Barton and Ogle are gone, leaving sophomore outside linebacker Aaron Thompson as the elder statesman. Vanderlinden likes redshirt freshman E.J. Henderson at one of the inside positions, and Marlon Moore played in every game last season as Ogle's understudy.

Secondary: Lewis Sanders was expected to be the top defensive back last year, but he missed the season

while rehabilitating a shoulder injury. Sanders, a free safety as a sophomore, probably will move to cornerback and fill the spot vacated by Clifford Crosby. Strong safety Shawn Forte became a reliable player while Sanders was out. Cornerback Tony Okanlawon was a six-game starter last season as a true freshman. **Special teams:** Brian Kopka converted 10 straight field-goal attempts last season, and his only miss from inside 45 yards was blocked. Maryland was fourth in the ACC in net punting, which reflected more on the coverage than punter Russ Edwards, who is gone and



A good bet: Of the starters returning on offense, none is more important than Jordan, a probable 1,000-yard rusher if healthy.

will be replaced by Sean Starnier.

Schedule: Maryland isn't likely to overlook Division I-AA Western Carolina in the home opener after struggling to beat James Madison last year. A home game against West Virginia in the third week could say a lot about the Terrapins' season.

Coaching: Bob Heffner, who previously coached the tight ends and offensive tackles, has taken over as offensive coordinator for Craig Johnson, who will focus on his duties as quarterbacks coach. Eight full-time assistants return, which should help continuity.

Outlook: A 4-7 season would represent improvement after 2-9 and 3-8 records in Vanderlinden's first two seasons. It's hard to envision the Terrapins doing much better than that. The switch in coordinators suggests that the team's offensive philosophy is evolving.

TERRAPINS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Jermaine Arrington	5-9	173	Sr.	Omar Cheeseboro	6-2	189	Jr.
T	Brad Messina	6-5	288	Sr.	Brett Trammell	6-5	305	Jr.
G	Mike George	6-4	304	So.	*Bob Krantz	6-5	262	Fr.
C	Melvin Fowler	6-3	266	Jr.	*Sam Marvis	6-3	244	Fr.
G	Jamie Wu	6-3	307	Sr.	Chris Snader	6-5	285	So.
T	Timm Howard	6-4	303	Jr.	*Matt Crawford	6-6	295	Fr.
TE	John Waerig	6-2	267	Sr.	Matt Murphy	6-5	238	So.
WR	Jason Hatala	6-0	173	Jr.	Guillan Gary	6-0	177	So.
QB	Randall Jones	6-2	212	So.	*Calvin McCall	6-3	189	Fr.
RB	LaMont Jordan	5-11	216	Jr.	Harold Westley	5-7	166	Sr.
FB	Matt Kalapinski	6-1	223	Jr.	Kenny Rogers	5-9	195	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Erwyn Lyght	6-0	212	Sr.	Eric Calendine	6-3	245	Sr.
T	Kris Jenkins	6-5	293	Jr.	Charles Hill	6-2	282	So.
NT	Delbert Cowsette	6-1	274	Sr.	*Todd Bradley	6-2	260	Fr.
E	Peter Timmins	6-4	243	Sr.	Nate Rust Jr.	6-4	243	Sr.
OLB	Aaron Thompson	6-1	226	So.	Ryan Swift	6-1	224	So.
ILB	Marlon Moore	6-1	220	So.	Corey Smith	5-11	208	So.
ILB	*E.J. Henderson	6-2	233	Fr.	Reggie Lewis	6-0	236	So.
CB	Lewis Sanders	6-0	200	Jr.	Bryn Boggs	6-0	184	Sr.
SS	Tony Jackson	6-1	202	Jr.	Rod Little	5-11	195	So.
FS	Shawn Forte	6-0	196	Jr.	Tony Jackson	6-1	202	Jr.
CB	Tony Okanlawon	5-11	179	So.	Renard Cox	6-0	189	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Brian Kopka	5-7	185	Jr.	P	Sean Starnier	5-11	185	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

ATLANTIC COAST

1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING (RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD)

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Thomas Jones, Virginia, Sr.	11	238	1,303	5.5	13	118.5
2. LaMont Jordan, Maryland, Jr.	10	169	906	5.4	6	90.6
3. Travis Minor, Florida State, Jr.	10	191	857	4.5	7	85.7
4. Ray Robinson, North Carolina State, So.	11	154	822	5.3	10	74.7
5. B.J. Hill, Duke, So.	11	192	798	4.2	2	72.6
6. Antwoine Womack, Virginia, Jr.	11	112	708	6.3	4	64.4
7. Travis Zachery, Clemson, So.	11	158	635	4.0	4	57.7
8. Rufus Brown, North Carolina, So.	11	133	534	4.0	3	48.6
9. Jeff Chaney, Florida State, Jr.	12	120	573	4.8	5	47.8
10. Morgan Kane, Wake Forest, Sr.	10	128	454	3.5	2	45.4

PASSING

Name, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech, Sr.	11	259	145	.560	8	2,166	8.4	17	141.7
2. Chris Weinke, Florida State, Jr.	10	286	145	.507	6	2,487	8.7	19	141.5
3. Jamie Barnette, N.C. State, Sr.	11	377	193	.512	11	3,169	8.4	18	131.7
4. Aaron Brooks, Virginia	11	290	156	.538	9	2,319	8.0	12	128.4
5. Marcus Outzen, Florida St., Jr.	11	60	36	.600	2	464	7.7	1	123.8
6. Oscar Davenport, N. Carolina	9	182	100	.550	3	1,208	6.6	8	121.9
7. Brandon Streeter, Clemson, Sr.	11	282	150	.532	14	1,946	6.9	13	116.4
8. Brian Kuklick, Wake Forest	11	396	216	.546	17	2,683	6.8	14	114.5
9. Ronald Curry, N. Carolina, So.	11	147	66	.449	7	975	6.6	6	104.6
10. Bobby Campbell, Duke, Jr.	11	206	101	.490	11	1,677	7.1	6	98.8

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Torry Holt, North Carolina State	11	88	1,604	11	8.0	18.2
2. Jammie Deese, Wake Forest, Sr.	11	68	826	3	6.2	12.2
3. Desmond Clark, Wake Forest	10	59	866	8	5.9	14.7
4. Scottie Montgomery, Duke, Sr.	11	60	793	3	5.5	13.2
5. Richmond Flowers, Duke, Jr.	9	48	704	4	5.3	14.7
6. Peter Warrick, Florida State, Sr.	12	61	1,232	12	5.1	20.2
7. Na Brown, North Carolina	11	55	896	6	5.0	16.3
8. Chris Coleman, North Carolina State, Sr.	11	52	876	5	4.7	16.9
9. Dez White, Georgia Tech, Jr.	11	46	973	9	4.2	21.2
10. Terrence Wilkins, Virginia	11	45	811	1	4.1	18.0

1998 TEAM STATS

OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia (15)	213.1	1. N.C. State (10)	309.2	1. N.C. State (20)	442.8
2. Georgia Tech (33)	183.7	2. Wake Forest (17)	286.5	2. Virginia (23)	426.6
3. Maryland (50)	161.2	3. Florida State (24)	251.6	3. Florida State (31)	401.3
4. Florida State (59)	149.8	4. Virginia (50)	213.5	4. Georgia Tech (38)	388.7
5. Duke (63)	146.3	5. Georgia Tech (61)	205.0	5. Wake Forest (66)	351.8
6. N.C. State (77)	133.6	6. North Carolina (69)	198.6	6. Duke (70)	338.9
7. North Carolina (79)	130.1	7. Duke (70)	192.6	7. North Carolina (52)	328.7
8. Clemson (90)	120.4	8. Clemson (76)	184.4	8. Clemson (93)	304.7
9. Wake Forest (112)	65.4	9. Maryland (103)	117.1	9. Maryland (105)	278.3

DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASS EFFICIENCY		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	Points	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Florida State (2)	79.8	1. Florida State (1)	79.9	1. Florida State (1)	214.8
2. Clemson (14)	104.5	2. Virginia (16)	105.7	2. Clemson (25)	320.3
3. Virginia (17)	118.5	3. N.C. State (37)	113.5	3. Virginia (32)	333.3
4. North Carolina (27)	127.6	4. Duke (44)	115.8	4. North Carolina (41)	346.6
5. Duke (59)	156.0	5. North Carolina (51)	116.1	5. Duke (46)	348.4
6. Maryland (60)	159.0	6. Clemson (56)	120.7	6. Maryland (53)	361.0
7. Georgia Tech (72)	167.5	7. Georgia Tech (58)	121.3	7. N.C. State (64)	374.5
8. N.C. State (73)	168.0	8. Maryland (60)	121.9	8. Georgia Tech (82)	397.5
9. Wake Forest (88)	187.2	9. Wake Forest (72)	128.8	9. Wake Forest (85)	400.8

RECRUITING

1. FLORIDA STATE: While the smallest recruiting class of Bobby Bowden's tenure (11) isn't ranked among the top 10 by some analysts, it is packed with talent. Running back Nick Maddox is the heir apparent to Travis Minor. Anquan Boldin is an athletic quarterback. Defensive backs Rufus Brown and B.J. Ward are big-timers, along with linebacker Kendyll Pope. Defensive linemen Darnell Dockett, Alonzo Jackson and Jeff Womble are future stars.

2. NORTH CAROLINA: The Tar Heels, who had strayed from recruiting in Virginia in recent years, raided their northern neighbor for seven top prospects, headed by running back Daniel Davis, offensive lineman David Stevenson and cornerback Dexter Reid. The Tar Heels came close to losing defensive back Michael Waddell, who almost changed his mind and opted for Florida State. Keep an eye on wideout Jamal Jones. This class is heavy with linemen (six on offense and four on defense) and defensive backs (five).

3. GEORGIA TECH: The Yellow Jackets have been able to farm the Eastern seaboard for top players such as wideout Anthony Lawston and defensive back Cory Collins throughout George O'Leary's tenure. They also are starting to make inroads in Georgia, home to 14 of this year's signees. O'Leary hopes kicker Luke Manget and punter/kicker Phillip Newman can fill urgent needs. Coaches are excited about running backs Sydney Ford, William Glover and Michael Kitchen.

4. VIRGINIA: The Cavaliers' difficulty in keeping the top players home was offset by their success in other areas, most notably Pennsylvania, where they corralled three highly regarded players. One, Matt Schaub, joins in-state signee Bryson Spinner to give Virginia two premium quarterback prospects. The defensive line was bolstered by Micah Kimball, Justin Walker, Stan Norfleet and Shomari Chism. Running back Art Thomas is a gem.

5. CLEMSON: Tommy Bowden didn't take the Clemson job until December 2 but still signed 24 players. He took advantage of Florida State's numbers crunch to get quarterback Willie Simmons from his father's backyard and away from Georgia Tech, the leader at one point. Bernard Rambert is a big-time running back. Linebacker Rodney Feaster, offensive lineman William Henry and defensive back Brian Mance are blue-chippers.

6. NORTH CAROLINA STATE: Either Jatavis Sanders or unheralded Toki McCray will be the Wolfpack's quarterback of the future. N.C. State signed eight players who could help on both sides of the ball, headed by Marcus Ellerbe, Julius Patterson and Bryan Peterson. Tight end Joseph Gray and offensive lineman Scott Kooistra are prime prospects. Tight end Joseph Gray is a sleeper.

7. MARYLAND: Auburn thought it had quarterback Latrez Harrison before he changed his mind and signed with Maryland. Ron Vanderlinden and his staff recruited well in Pennsylvania but haven't found the secret to keeping players from the Washington, D.C., area at home. Coaches are excited about linebacker Leroy Ambush, offensive lineman Lamar Bryant, defensive back Curome Cox and running back Bruce Perry.

8. WAKE FOREST: Many recruiting services did not list the Deacons among the contenders for quarterback C.J. Leak, but the Charlotte native shocked many—namely Notre Dame—by picking Wake. His signing made this 10-man class special. Running back Tarence Williams is a fine prospect. Offensive lineman Chad Rebar, who has added a lot of weight in recent years, is a sleeper.

9. DUKE: New coach Carl Franks retained most of Fred Goldsmith's staff and it paid off in recruiting. The Blue Devils kept all 10 of the players who had committed when Goldsmith was coach. Four signees came from the Detroit area that recruiting coordinator Joe DeLamielleure has cultivated, headed by tight end Nick Brzezinski. Running backs Brian Clemmons, Chris Douglas and Alex Wade have coaches excited.

SCOUTING

Atlantic Coast

For the last seven years, Florida State and coach Bobby Bowden have dominated the Atlantic Coast Conference, compiling a 54-2 record against league foes. But never has the Bowden family been the center of attention as much as it was during the off-season.

First, Clemson announced December 2 that it had hired Tommy Bowden, who was 19-4 in two seasons as Tulane's coach, to succeed Tommy West. Bobby Bowden, Tommy Bowden and then-Auburn coach Terry Bowden began the 1998 season as the only father and sons holding head coach positions at the same time in Division I-A history.

Terry resigned under pressure during last season, nullifying what would have been the first game in Division I-A history in which father was pitted against son. Auburn, which was scheduled to open the 1999 season at Florida State, bought its way out of the game.

A father-son matchup still will take place. Tommy's first Clemson team will play host to his dad and Florida State on October 23. The family ties don't stop there. Tommy's brother, Jeff, coaches the Florida

on September 11. Florida State hasn't lost a home game since 1991; its 40-game home unbeaten streak is the longest in Division I-A.

Bowl bound: Florida State, Georgia Tech, North Carolina and Virginia. The Seminoles have been to a bowl every year since 1982. The Tar Heels have made seven consecutive bowl appearances, and the Cavaliers have been seven times in the 1990s.

Biggest shoes to fill: North Carolina State may need a committee to replace wide receiver Torry Holt, the 1998 ACC player of the year. Ryan Hamrick and Chris Coleman were a pass-catch combination in Shelby, N.C., before joining the receiving corps at State, and redshirt freshman Koren Robinson could be a big-play threat.

Most overrated player: Wake Forest running back Morgan Kane. After the Deacons finished 101st in Division I-A in rushing in 1997, coach Jim Caldwell predicted they would be much improved. Kane, the ACC's rushing leader early last season, rushed for 33 yards in the last five games, one of which he missed because of an injury. Wake lost all five and ranked last in the nation in rushing.

Most underrated player: North Carolina State quarterback Jamie Barnette. If he passes for 2,500 yards this season, Barnette will become the ACC's all-time leader in yards. Yet he'll probably end his career without ever being a first-team All-ACC selection.

Best coach: Georgia Tech's George O'Leary. This is a close call over Bobby Bowden and Virginia's George Welsh. You have to give O'Leary his due for forging a share of the ACC title last year. Remember: Tech was 1-10 in 1994.

Best staff: Florida State. Bowden has given his coordinators increased responsibility during the past decade. It's remarkable he has been able to retain the likes of defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews, offensive coordinator Mark Richt and assistant head coach Chuck Amato.

Coach on the hot seat: Caldwell is the only football coach in ACC history who has endured six losing seasons. However, Wake athletic director Ron Wellman has a reason for sticking with Caldwell—the coach's latest recruiting class includes top quarterback prospect C.J. Leak.

Odds and ends: Look for Florida State to prolong two impressive streaks. The Seminoles have finished each of the last 12 seasons ranked fourth or higher in The Associated Press poll, winning 10 or more



Much ado about nothing: Wake Forest fans who thought Kane would lift the Deacons' running game last season were sorely disappointed.

games each year. ... Three other ACC teams had more players drafted by the NFL this year than the Seminoles' four. That was down from nine in 1998. ... Florida State and North Carolina rank 1-2 in Division I-A in total defense over the last four seasons. ... North Carolina has three starters remaining from its 1997 team, which went 11-1 and was No. 4 in the final rankings. ... Tommy Bowden at Clemson and Carl Franks at Duke will become the 28th and 29th ACC coaches that Welsh has coached against since arriving at Virginia in 1982. Only three active Division I-A coaches have coached more games than Welsh: Bobby Bowden, Joe Paterno and LaVell Edwards. ... When he set Virginia's career rushing record in 1996, Tiki Barber predicted it would last only until then-freshman Thomas Jones completed his eligibility. Jones, who rushed for an ACC-high 1,303 yards last year, needs 1,190 to break Barber's record. ... North Carolina, once known for its rushing game, is hoping to improve on a 1998 season in which just one player (Rufus Brown) rushed for 100 yards in a game. And that was against Wake Forest. ... At 19-8, Georgia Tech has the highest winning percentage (70.4) in bowls of any Division I-A team. That includes five straight victories. Florida State is fifth at 63 percent. ... Georgia Tech has won six straight games on the road—eight if you count victories in the Carquest and Gator bowls. ... When Clemson defeated South Carolina, 28-19, last year, it was the first win for the home team in that series since 1990. ... Maryland saw its average margin of defeat in ACC games drop from 28 points in 1997 to eight. —Doug Doughty

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBs	DBs
CLEMSON	7	9	4	7	8	2
DUKE	6	5	3	4	7	5
FLORIDA ST.	1	1	1	1	2	1
GEORGIA TECH	2	3	2	2	6	3
MARYLAND	8	7	9	8	9	7
N. CAROLINA	5	4	7	5	1	9
N.C. STATE	3	6	5	9	4	4
VIRGINIA	4	2	8	3	3	6
WAKE FOREST	9	8	6	6	5	8

State receivers. Jack Hines, son-in-law of Bobby and brother-in-law of Tommy and Jeff, coaches the Clemson defensive backs.

Ascending: Clemson has to be better than last year, when its 3-8 record was the Tigers' worst since 2-9 in 1975. Tommy Bowden should re-energize a team that lost five games by seven or fewer points.

Descending: Virginia. Don't look for the Cavaliers to fall off the charts—they have won at least seven games in each of the last 12 seasons. But it will be hard to duplicate a 9-3 season in which they had 21-point leads in two of their three losses.

Best matchup: Georgia Tech and Florida State are the best teams in the conference. The odds will not favor the Yellow Jackets when they visit Doak Campbell Stadium

BIG EAST

THE **BIG EAST**
CONFERENCE
RANK 6

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY MICHAEL VEGA, BOSTON GLOBE

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

Conference	Conf. W-L	Pts.	Opp.	Overall W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Syracuse	6-1	317	148	8-4	478	300	75-30-3	.694	3,270	2,112
Miami	5-2	235	175	9-3	448	298	83-23	.783	3,322	1,749
Virginia Tech	5-2	195	103	9-3	381	149	66-38-1	.629	2,986	2,005
West Virginia	5-2	231	134	8-4	410	267	61-42-2	.581	2,688	2,111
Boston College	3-4	147	165	4-7	273	311	49-53-2	.505	2,402	2,447
Rutgers	2-5	112	270	5-6	206	376	36-62-1	.364	2,167	3,023
Temple	2-5	100	226	2-9	198	360	20-79	.202	1,705	3,351
Pittsburgh	0-7	128	244	2-9	234	334	32-68-1	.317	2,220	3,060

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS

SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive

Best offensive players

Best defensive players

BIG GAMES non-conference, conference

1. MIAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenny Kelly must be the answer at QB. Need to defend better against the pass. 	G Richard Mercier TE Daniel Franks	LB Dan Morgan LB Nate Webster	Aug. 29 vs. Ohio State Nov. 13 at Virginia Tech
2. VIRGINIA TECH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line shaky; QB Michael Vick must emerge. Three secondary starters must be replaced. 	K Shayne Graham TB Shyrone Stith	E Corey Moore E John Engelberger	Oct. 2 at Virginia Nov. 13 vs. Miami
3. WEST VIRGINIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four starters on line must be replaced. Line must be fortified, pass rusher needed. 	QB Marc Bulger TE Anthony Becht	CB Nate Terry K/P Jay Taylor	Sept. 4 vs. East Carolina Sept. 25 at Syracuse
4. SYRACUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need playmaking QB and chief running threat. Youthful secondary must mature quickly. 	T Mark Baniewicz WR Quinton Spotwood	LB Keith Bulluck T Donald Dinkins	Sept. 18 vs. Michigan Oct. 16 at Virginia Tech
5. BOSTON COLLEGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RB Mike Cloud, three key linemen are gone. Secondary must live up to veteran's status. 	G Paul Zukauskas K John Matich	FS Pedro Cirino T Chris Hovan	Nov. 20 at Notre Dame Oct. 30 at Syracuse
6. RUTGERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youngsters on the line, at WR need to emerge. Toughness and turnovers needed. 	QB Mike McMahon T Shaun O'Hara	E Wayne Hampton LB Dax Strohmeier	Sept. 25 vs. Boston College Oct. 23 vs. Pittsburgh
7. TEMPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must develop a passing attack. Need to improve pass rush, make big plays. 	TB Elmarko Jackson WR Carlos Johnson	LB Taylor Suman LB Chonn Lacey	Sept. 2 vs. Maryland Oct. 30 vs. Rutgers
8. PITTSBURGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must overcome inexperience at QB and RB. Veteran secondary must carry big load early. 	WR Latef Grim TE Ben Kopp	CB Hank Poteat SS Seth Hornack	Sept. 11 at Penn State Nov. 27 at West Virginia

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Marc Bulger, West Virginia

The Insight.com Bowl last Dec. 26 lent some great insight into West Virginia's 1999 season. Junior quarterback Marc Bulger virtually carried his team in a 34-31 loss to Missouri, accounting for 429 of the Mountaineers' 491 yards by completing 34 of 50 passes, including four touchdowns. The performance was amazing, especially given the Mountaineers' numerous offensive weapons.

The loss of eight starters has left Bulger as West Virginia's sole offensive threat. Running back Amos Zereoue opted to go to the NFL and forgo his final year of eligibility after establishing Big East career records for rushing yards (3,907), carries (726) and touchdowns (38). Also departing are receivers Shawn Foreman and David Saunders, as well as all five

starters from the offensive line. So Bulger will be counted on to do even more, if that's possible.

"We're going to miss all those guys a lot," Bulger says. "But I think we've got guys who are ready to step up."

In two years as West Virginia's starter, Bulger has established 19 game, season and career records. He became the school's season passing leader last year by throwing for 3,607 yards and 31 TDs. He knows the pressure will increase, but Bulger's confidence in his abilities and his familiarity with Don Nehlen's multiple offense should enable him to handle any challenges. One pressing concern is the development of West Virginia's offensive line into a cohesive unit.

"I know I'm going to get frustrated a little bit, but I've got to remember that I was a sophomore once, too," Bulger says. "I think I'll be able to handle some of the mistakes, so long as they're just physical mistakes and not mental ones." —Michael Vega



Corey Moore, Virginia Tech

At first glance, it appeared to be a mismatch of gargantuan proportions. An elephantine offensive lineman standing between 6-4 and 6-6 and weighing in the neighborhood of 320 pounds, lining up against 6-0, 212-pound Corey Moore, Virginia Tech's whirling dervish of a defensive end. Yup, it was a mismatch all right. In most cases, those hulking offensive linemen didn't stand a chance against Moore's surprising quickness, agility and leverage. By last season's end, Moore had a league-leading 13½ sacks for Virginia Tech's league-leading defense, leaving many opponents asking: "Where did this guy come from?"

"I just think I came from out of the woodwork and surprised a lot of people," Moore says. "Most definitely I think a lot of teams underestimated my size. I used

to be a little self-conscious about my size, but I really don't worry about it anymore. I think I'm very physical for my size, and a lot of big guys are surprised about how physical I am."

When he arrived at Virginia Tech as a linebacker and was asked to switch to defensive end, Moore was unsure whether he would be able to adapt. Once he learned the principles of playing with great leverage and quickness, "it enabled me to really mix it up with those big guys a lot," he says. "Even when I'm lined up against a bigger tight end, I know it's key for me to stay low and to get leverage. But coaching has a lot to do with that because they call defenses that allow me to use my speed and quickness."

In Moore's case, size does not matter. In fact, the bigger his opponents are, so much the better. "So many people last year were talking about my size and making an issue of it," he says. "But sometimes I feel like I've got as big a heart—or even bigger—as anyone else out there on the field with me." —Michael Vega

PRESEASON

All-Big East

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Reggie Wayne, Miami	6-2	190	Jr.
WR	Khori Ivy, West Virginia	6-2	190	Sr.
TE	Daniel Franks, Miami	6-6	245	Jr.
T	Mark Baniewicz, Syracuse	6-6	282	Sr.
T	Shaun O'Hara, Rutgers	6-4	280	Sr.
G	Richard Mercier, Miami	6-3	290	Sr.
G	Bill O'Donnell, Syracuse	6-3	291	Sr.
C	Ty Wise, Miami	6-2	280	Sr.
QB	Marc Bulger, West Virginia	6-3	210	Sr.
RB	Jacki Crooks, Rutgers	5-10	205	Sr.
RB	James Jackson, Miami	5-11	215	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Corey Moore, Virginia Tech	6-0	212	Sr.
E	John Engelberger, Virginia Tech	6-4	269	Sr.
T	Chris Hovan, Boston College	6-3	285	Sr.
T	Demond Gibson, Pittsburgh	6-4	300	Sr.
LB	Nate Webster, Miami	6-0	220	Jr.
LB	Keith Bulluck, Syracuse	6-3	230	Sr.
LB	Dan Morgan, Miami	6-2	220	Jr.
CB	Hank Poteat, Pittsburgh	6-0	190	Sr.
CB	Leonard Myers, Miami	6-0	175	Jr.
S	Pedro Cirino, Boston College	5-11	191	Sr.
S	Edward Reed, Miami	6-0	185	So.

SPECIALISTS

K	Shayne Graham, Virginia Tech	6-0	194	Sr.
P	Jimmy Kibble, Virginia Tech	5-10	184	Sr.
KR	Tosh Riddick, Rutgers	5-10	175	So.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Latef Grim, Pittsburgh	6-0	185	Jr.
WR	Santana Moss, Miami	5-11	175	Jr.
TE	Anthony Becht, West Virginia	6-6	265	Sr.
T	Josh Redding, Virginia Tech	6-4	309	Jr.
T	Joaquin Gonzalez, Miami	6-5	285	So.
G	Paul Zukauskas, Boston College	6-5	306	Jr.
G	Eric Schnupp, Miami	6-4	290	Sr.
C	Cory Bowen, Syracuse	6-4	288	Sr.
QB	Mike McMahon, Rutgers	6-3	215	Jr.
RB	Shyrone Stith, Virginia Tech	5-8	203	Sr.
RB	Elmarko Jackson, Temple	5-11	205	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Wayne Hampton, Rutgers	6-5	250	Sr.
E	Michael Boireau, Miami	6-5	255	Sr.
T	Mike Willetts, Boston College	6-4	285	Sr.
T	Carl Bradley, Virginia Tech	6-2	291	Sr.
LB	Taylor Suman, Temple	6-2	235	So.
LB	Barrett Green, West Virginia	6-1	215	Sr.
LB	Jabari Moore, Rutgers	6-0	210	Sr.
CB	Ike Charlton, Virginia Tech	6-0	198	Jr.
CB	Nate Terry, West Virginia	6-2	185	Sr.
S	Al Blades, Miami	6-2	195	Jr.
S	Seth Hornack, Pittsburgh	5-10	195	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Nate Trout, Syracuse	5-9	179	Sr.
P	Andy Crosland, Miami	6-1	205	Sr.
KR	Quinton Spotwood, Syracuse	6-0	190	Sr.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: William Green, RB, Boston College

Defense: Idris Price, LB, Syracuse

1 Miami, Fla.

Site: Coral Gables
Coach: Butch Davis (31-15, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Larry Coker (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Greg Schiano (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3 multiple
Starters lost: 5
Lettermen lost: 8
Lettermen returning: 47
Stadium: Orange Bowl (grass, 73,319)
Last league title won: 1996 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 20th
1998 record: 9-3 (beat North Carolina State in Micron PC Bowl); Big East: 5-2 (tie 2nd)

1998 RESULTS

East Tennessee St., W 66-17 at Cincinnati, W 38-12
 Virginia Tech, L 27-20 (OT) at Rutgers, W 53-17
 Florida State, L 26-14 at West Virginia, W 34-31
 Boston College, W 35-17 at Temple, W 42-7
 Pittsburgh, W 38-10 at Syracuse, L 66-13
 UCLA, W 49-45
 North Carolina St., W 46-23

SCHEDULE

A29—Ohio State*
 S4—Florida A&M
 S18—Penn State
 S25—at East Carolina
 O9—at Florida State
 O16—Temple
 O23—at Boston College
 O30—West Virginia
 N6—at Pittsburgh
 N13—at Virginia Tech
 N20—Rutgers
 N27—Syracuse
 *at East Rutherford, N.J.

NATIONAL RANK
13

Quarterbacks: With Scott Covington gone, sophomore Kenny Kelly inherits an offense that is loaded with talent. Kelly, who also plays minor league baseball, shows a live arm, good instincts and athleticism. Should Kelly get injured, the Hurricanes could be vulnerable because there's a huge drop off to left-hander Zachary Hart, who walked on three years ago and earned a scholarship last season.

Running backs: Edgerrin James bolted a year early for the NFL. James Jackson and Najeh Davenport are a battle-hardened duo with a fine combination of speed and power. Last year they combined to rush for 937 yards and 11 TDs. Mondriel Fulcher moves from tight end to fullback, where his size and pass-catching ability will add another dimension to the attack. Fulcher won't carry the ball often with Jackson and Davenport around.

Receivers: Kelly will throw to one of the nation's top wideout corps, which includes Reggie Wayne, Santana Moss, Andre King and Daryl Jones. Wayne, who missed the last three games of 1998 because of a knee injury that required reconstructive surgery, needs to prove he is healthy. Daniel Franks and junior college transfer Ivan Mercer are huge and mobile targets at tight end.

Offensive line: Richard Mercier, who returned from reconstructive knee surgery in 1997 and started every game at left guard last year, is the undisputed anchor of the Miami "Pound Machine." Center Ty Wise also started every game, but he could be hampered by an aching back. Sophomore right tackle Joaquin Gonzalez last year became the first lineman in league history to earn Big East rookie of the year honors. Robert Hall and Robert Sampson will push for time at left tackle. Eric Schnupp ranks among the better guards in the Big East.

Defensive line: Replacing Derrick Ham, who led the team with 12 sacks last year, will be the biggest challenge. The other three starters—tackles Damione Lewis and Matt Sweeney and end Quincy Hipps—are back. Michael Boireau is the favorite to replace Ham. He registered 13 quarterback hurries last year, tying Ham for the team lead.

Linebackers: This is perhaps the strongest unit on defense, if not the team. Speed and athleticism abound. The Hurricanes return the league's top tacklers in Dan Morgan (150) and Nate Webster (134), a potent 1-2 punch. Michael Smith completes a trio that ranks among the nation's best. Miami not only has experience but depth with Sheven Marshall, Rod Mack and James Sutton.

Secondary: Another experienced unit. Three of the

four starters are back: right corner Markese Fitzgerald, free safety Al Blades and strong safety Edward Reed, who is coming off a terrific true freshman season. Super sophomore Mike Rumph will spell Fitzgerald. And don't forget about Leonard Myers, who was slowed by a knee injury in '98 but still earned second-team All-Big East honors. He's among the nation's best cornerbacks.

Special teams: Andy Crosland, who has handled punting (40.3-yard average last year) and kicking (7 of 11 field-goal attempts last year) duties the last three



The backs stop here: Few ballcarriers escape the grasp of Morgan, the Big East's leading tackler last year with 150.

seasons, will be challenged for the kicker's role by Todd Sievers, whose handled kickoffs last year. There are a lot of speedy options in the return game, including Moss, Myers, Davenport and Jackson.

Schedule: This may be the toughest non-conference schedule in the nation. The Hurricanes play Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic, play host to Penn State and travel to Florida State.

Coaching: Butch Davis hired Greg Schiano, who had been with the Chicago Bears, as defensive coordinator. Schiano replaced Bill Miller, whose unit struggled against the pass.

Outlook: Two years after Miami went 5-6, Davis has the Hurricanes in position to win the Big East title. If Miami has the depth to survive its brutal schedule, it might even contend for the national championship.

HURRICANES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Reggie Wayne	6-2	190	Jr.	Andre King	6-0	185	Jr.
T	Joaquin Gonzalez	6-5	285	So.	Robert Sampson	6-3	285	Sr.
G	Eric Schnupp	6-2	285	Sr.	Martin Bibla	6-4	285	So.
C	Ty Wise	6-2	280	Sr.	Scott Puckett	6-3	265	So.
G	Richard Mercier	6-3	290	Sr.	Brett Romberg	6-3	280	So.
T	Robert Hall	6-4	290	Sr.	*Joey Fantigrassi	6-4	250	Fr.
TE	Daniel Franks	6-6	245	Jr.	Dan Smith	6-4	245	So.
WR	Santana Moss	5-11	175	Jr.	Daryl Jones	5-10	180	Jr.
QB	Kenny Kelly	6-3	190	So.	Zachary Hart	6-3	200	Jr.
TB	James Jackson	5-11	215	Jr.	Najeh Davenport	6-2	235	So.
FB	Mondriel Fulcher	6-3	245	Sr.	James Jackson	5-11	215	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Michael Boireau	6-5	255	Sr.	Brian Stinson	6-4	250	Jr.
T	Damione Lewis	6-2	285	Jr.	Adrian Wilson	6-3	305	Jr.
T	Matt Sweeney	6-3	270	Sr.	Clint Hurtt	6-4	295	Jr.
E	Quincy Hipps	6-4	255	Jr.	Michael Boireau	6-5	255	Sr.
OLB	Dan Morgan	6-2	220	Jr.	Rod Mack	6-1	225	Sr.
MLB	Nate Webster	6-0	220	Jr.	Sheven Marshall	6-2	230	So.
OLB	Michael Smith	6-3	230	Sr.	Chris Campbell	6-2	215	So.
CB	Leonard Myers	6-0	175	Jr.	Nick Ward	5-10	180	Sr.
SS	Edward Reed	6-0	185	So.	James Lewis	6-0	175	So.
FS	Al Blades	6-2	195	Jr.	Delvin Brown	6-0	195	Jr.
CB	Markese Fitzgerald	5-11	180	So.	Mike Rumph	6-2	195	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Andy Crosland	6-1	205	Sr.	P	Andy Crosland	6-1	205	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

2 Virginia Tech

NATIONAL RANK
30

Site: Blacksburg
Coach: Frank Beamer (77-59-2, 12 years; 119-82-4 overall, 18 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ricky Bustle (6th season)
Defensive coordinator: Bud Foster (5th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 11
Lettermen returning: 54
Stadium: Lane (grass, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1996 (tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1992
1998 TSN rank: 21st
1998 record: 9-3 (beat Alabama in Music City Bowl); Big East: 5-2 (tie 2nd)

1998 RESULTS

East Carolina, W 38-3
at Clemson, W 37-0
at Miami, Fla., W 27-20 (OT)
Pittsburgh, W 27-7
at Boston College, W 17-0
Temple, L 28-24
at Ala.-Birmingham, W 41-0
West Virginia, W 27-13
at Syracuse, L 28-26
Rutgers, W 47-7
Virginia, L 36-32
Alabama, W 38-7

SCHEDULE

S4—James Madison
S11—Ala.-Birmingham
S23—Clemson
O2—at Virginia
O9—at Rutgers
O16—Syracuse
O30—at Pittsburgh
N6—at West Virginia
N13—Miami, Fla.
N20—at Temple
N26—Boston College

Quarterbacks: The Hokies were able to win three consecutive games with three quarterbacks last year. During that stretch, Frank Beamer resisted the urge to play talented Michael Vick. Now, Beamer is ready to unleash Vick, a redshirt freshman who has a rifle arm and quick feet. Dave Meyer and

redshirt freshman Grant Noel are in reserve.
Running backs: After serving as a backup to Lamont Pegues, Shyrone Stith assumes the lead back role. Depth isn't a concern, with rising talent Andre Kendrick competing with promising redshirt freshmen Lee Suggs and Keith Burnell. Cullen Hawkins, who suffered a season-ending foot injury last year at Miami, and Jarrett Ferguson are proven fullbacks.

Receivers: Ricky Hall is the team's big-play man. A group of talented newcomers needs to fill the void left by Angelo Harrison. Hall, who made 37 catches for 650 yards and eight touchdowns last season, will be backed up by Emmett Johnson and Marcus Gildersleeve. Andre Davis, a record-setting sprinter on the track team, and Reggie Samuel need to avoid the injuries that slowed them last season. Tight end Derek Carter could figure prominently in the passing game because of his size, speed and hands.

Offensive line: The left side will have to be rebuilt with tackle Derek Smith and guard Dwight Vick gone. Josh Redding, who started at right guard last season before suffering a knee injury, will get a look at left tackle. While Redding has the strength and athleticism to make the switch, there are concerns about his knee. Matt Lehr, Anthony Lambo and Joe Marchant will compete for the guard spots. Tackle Dave Kadela will be a stabilizing force, along with center Keith Short.

Defensive line: This unit ranks among the best in the country, with all four starters back. Corey Moore, who earned 1998 Big East defensive player of the year honors after recording a league-leading 13½ sacks in his first year as a starter, is the best end in the nation. He'll be flanked by end John Engelberger and plug-and-chug tackles Nat Williams and Carl Bradley. When end Chris Cyrus and tackles Chad Beasley and David Pugh spell the starters, there is little drop in production.

Linebackers: Like the line, this corps returns intact, headed by Jamel Smith, the team's leading tackler last year. Michael Hawkes is another active force, but Lorenzo Ferguson's status is uncertain following an off-field incident in the spring. At least there's good depth. Keep an eye on touted Jake Houseright, who is back at linebacker after volunteering to play fullback last year.

Secondary: Cornerback Ike Charlton is the lone holdover from a group that finished second in the nation in interceptions (23), fourth in scoring defense

(12.9 points) and seventh in total defense (284.9 yards). Anthony Midget, who started seven games two years ago at corner and split time at corner and free safety last year, will contend at both spots. Nick Sorensen, back from a stint at quarterback, will contend for time at free safety. Cory Bird and Phillip Summers will battle for the rover spot.

Special teams: There is no better unit in the country. Kicker Shayne Graham, who is nine points shy of becoming the all-time leading scorer in the Big East, and punter Jimmy Kibble, who averaged 41.5 yards



The job is his: Stith, who rushed for 699 yards last year as a backup, should do considerably better as the Hokies' No. 1 running back.

last year, are among the nation's best. The Hokies have blocked more kicks in this decade than any other Division I-A team.

Schedule: It's challenging. The Hokies start with four non-conference games, including a visit by Clemson and a trip to Virginia. Three of the last five games are on the road. A home game November 13 with Miami may decide the conference title.

Coaching: Beamer scored a coup when defensive coordinator Bud Foster turned down the same post with Florida. Lorenzo Ward arrives from Tennessee-Chattanooga to coach defensive backs after Lou West departed for Notre Dame.

Outlook: Again, defense and special teams will be Tech's trademarks. The offense has too many questions to expect a league title.

HOKIES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Ricky Hall	6-3	201	Sr.	Emmett Johnson	6-3	206	So.
T	Josh Redding	6-4	309	Jr.	Matt Wincek	6-4	276	So.
G	Matt Lehr	6-2	275	Jr.	Daniel Nihipali	6-4	322	Sr.
C	Keith Short	6-3	268	Sr.	Tim Schneck	6-0	270	Sr.
G	Anthony Lambo	6-3	297	Jr.	Joe Marchant	6-3	294	Sr.
T	Dave Kadela	6-6	272	Jr.	Joe Marchant	6-3	294	Sr.
TE	Derek Carter	6-2	260	Jr.	Bob Slowikowski	6-5	247	So.
WR	Andre Davis	6-1	199	So.	*Terrell Parham	6-0	189	Fr.
QB	*Michael Vick	6-1	211	Fr.	Dave Meyer	6-3	208	Jr.
TB	Shyrone Stith	5-8	203	Jr.	Andre Kendrick	5-7	183	Jr.
FB	Jarrett Ferguson	5-9	207	So.	Cullen Hawkins	6-0	218	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Corey Moore	6-0	212	Sr.	Ron Cook	6-2	233	So.
T	Nat Williams	6-2	275	Sr.	Chad Beasley	6-5	273	So.
T	Carl Bradley	6-2	288	Sr.	David Pugh	6-3	271	So.
E	John Engelberger	6-4	269	Sr.	Chris Cyrus	6-2	243	Sr.
OLB	Phillip Summers	6-0	195	Jr.	Tee Butler	6-0	191	Jr.
ILB	Michael Hawkes	6-0	231	Sr.	Jake Houseright	6-3	233	So.
ILB	Jamel Smith	6-2	233	Sr.	Ben Taylor	6-2	211	So.
CB	Anthony Midget	5-11	183	Sr.	*Ronyell Whitaker	5-10	181	Fr.
SS	Cory Bird	5-10	212	Jr.	Phillip Summers	6-0	195	Jr.
FS	Nick Sorensen	6-3	197	Jr.	Reggie Samuel	6-0	183	So.
CB	Ike Charlton	6-0	198	Jr.	Larry Austin	5-9	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Shayne Graham	6-0	194	Sr.	P Jimmy Kibble	5-10	189	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

3 West Virginia

**NATIONAL
RANK
40**

Site: Morgantown
Coach: Don Nehlen (138-81-4, 19 years; 191-116-8 overall, 28 years)
Offensive coordinator: Dan Simrell (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Steve Dunlap (9th season)
Offensive scheme: multiple I
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 36
Stadium: Mountaineer Field (turf, 63,500)
Last league title won: 1993
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1995
1998 TSN rank: 29th
1998 record: 8-4 (lost to Missouri in Insight.com Bowl); Big East: 5-2 (tie 2nd)

1998 RESULTS

Ohio State, L 34-17
 Maryland, W 42-20
 Tulsa, W 44-21
 at Navy, W 45-24
 at Temple, W 37-7
 Miami, Fla., L 34-41
 at Virginia Tech, L 27-13
 Syracuse, W 35-28
 at Rutgers, W 28-14
 Boston College, W 35-10
 at Pittsburgh, W 52-14
 Missouri, L 34-31

SCHEDULE

S4—East Carolina*
 S11—Miami, Ohio
 S18—at Maryland
 S25—at Syracuse
 O2—Navy
 O16—Rutgers
 O23—Temple
 O30—at Miami, Fla.
 N6—Virginia Tech
 N13—at Boston College
 N27—Pittsburgh
 *at Charlotte

Quarterbacks: Marc Bulger, who last season passed for 3,607 yards and 31 touchdowns with just 10 interceptions, is the best quarterback in the Big East. With the loss of eight starters on offense, including the entire line, Bulger will be expected to shoulder a heavy burden. Not prone to making

mistakes or tolerating them, Bulger is a steady influence and a precision passer with a quick release. If the senior gets hurt, West Virginia is in trouble.

Running backs: It wasn't a surprise when Amos Zereoue bolted early for the NFL after rushing for a Big East career-record 4,086 yards. Alvin Swoope, who was Zereoue's backup, is ready for the lead role. Avon Cobourne, Brannon Goins and Notre Dame transfer Cooper Rego also figure in the mix. Anthony Green is a mainstay at fullback.

Receivers: David Saunders and Shawn Foreman, the all-time leading receivers in West Virginia history, are gone. Khori Ivy and Pat Greene show promise, and Carlos Osegueda also is back. Big Anthony Becht is one of the nation's top tight ends.

Offensive line: Gone are 142 career starts. The early departure of tackle Solomon Page was a big blow. Tackles Tanner Russell and Matt Wilson, guard Rick Gilliam and center John Conte are the only returning lettermen on this unit. Bulger's protection could be seriously compromised if the depth of this unit is tested.

Defensive line: The Mountaineers yielded 169 yards rushing a game last year, and they might not be any better this season. At least there are experienced bodies available. Tackle Osa Nosa, who played as a true freshman, figures in the mix to replace John Thornton. Ryan Brady, who bounced between rush linebacker and end, will contend for Kevin Lapdolt's vacated end spot. Greg Robinette will take over at nose tackle. Talented Shannon Washington will provide depth.

Linebackers: Though he played in only eight games last season, rush end/linebacker Gary Stills will be missed. West Virginia began preparing by grooming Antwan Lake, who began his career as a tight end. Lake's pass-rushing skills give him the edge over Mark Thurston and Brady. Undersized Barrett Green, a converted safety, led the team in tackles with 156 last season.

Secondary: This will be the defense's strength; three starters are back. Strong safety Gary Thompkins and free safety Jerry Porter are the leaders of a group that ranked third in the conference last year in pass-efficiency defense. Scooter Davis played cornerback after Nate Terry suffered a shoulder injury and missed most

of last season. Perlo Bastien figures to man the other corner spot. Safety Rick Sherrod is coming off a knee injury.

Special teams: Jay Taylor is an experienced punter and kicker, but he experienced a dip in production last season, converting 10 of 14 field-goal attempts—none from 50 yards—and averaging 40.1 yards a punt with two blocks. Terry and Porter are dangerous return men.

Schedule: Three of the first four games are on the road, including the conference opener at Syracuse. The



Dawn of a new era: With the two most productive receivers in Mountaineers history gone, it is time for Ivy and others to step up.

Mountaineers can't overlook Miami, Ohio, which has beaten Northwestern, Virginia Tech and North Carolina in recent years. A trip to Miami, Fla., also looms large.

Coaching: Don Nehlen, whose staff has an average tenure of 14 years in Morgantown, had to do some reshuffling when defensive backs coach Jerry Holmes left to take a similar position with the Cleveland Browns. Tony Pierce moved from running backs coach to defensive backs, and Nehlen hired Darrell Hazell away from Army to coach running backs.

Outlook: Nehlen has too many holes and too many questions to resolve. Bulger will provide the offense with firepower. But with both lines being rebuilt, it's too much to expect the Mountaineers to be serious contenders for the Big East title.

MOUNTAINEERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Khori Ivy	6-2	190	Sr.	Carlos Osegueda	6-2	200	Jr.
T Matt Wilson	6-5	295	Jr.	*Lance Nimmo	6-6	280	Fr.
G Terry Dixon	6-3	310	Jr.	*Jerome Taylor	6-4	300	Fr.
C John Conte	6-4	290	Sr.	Mike Enick	6-3	285	Jr.
G Rick Gilliam	6-5	325	Jr.	Jeremy Sherman	6-6	300	So.
T Tanner Russell	6-7	305	Jr.	Brad Knell	6-5	280	So.
TE Anthony Becht	6-6	265	Sr.	*Sean Berton	6-5	230	Fr.
WR Pat Greene	6-2	190	Sr.	Antonio Brown	5-10	170	So.
QB Marc Bulger	6-3	210	Sr.	Andy Keating	6-4	210	So.
RB Alvin Swoope	5-10	205	Sr.	*Avon Cobourne	5-8	185	Fr.
FB Anthony Green	6-2	240	Sr.	Mark Plants	6-3	245	Fr.

DEFENSE

E Antwan Lake	6-5	255	Jr.	Ryan Brady	6-2	255	Sr.
NT Greg Robinette	6-2	280	Sr.	*William Perry	6-2	300	Fr.
T *David Upchurch	6-4	245	Fr.	Osa Nosa	6-2	300	So.
RLB Mark Thurston	6-3	245	So.	*Kevin Freeman	6-3	230	Fr.
OLB Chris Edmonds	6-3	230	Jr.	Craig Pfaff	6-3	240	So.
MLB Kyle Kayden	6-3	235	So.	Corey McIntyre	6-0	235	Jr.
OLB Barrett Green	6-1	215	Sr.	K.C. Schiller	6-1	230	Sr.
CB Nate Terry	6-2	185	Sr.	Scooter Davis	5-11	180	Sr.
SS Gary Thompkins	5-11	200	Sr.	Boo Sensabaugh	6-2	210	Sr.
FS Jerry Porter	6-3	215	Sr.	*James Davis	6-2	210	Fr.
CB Perlo Bastien	6-1	190	Sr.	Richard Bryant	6-0	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Jay Taylor	6-2	200	Sr.	P Zach Anglin	6-0	195	So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

4 Syracuse

Site: Syracuse, N.Y.
Coach: Paul Pasqualoni (68-26-1, 8 years; 102-43-1 overall, 13 years)
Offensive coordinator: George DeLeone (10th season)
Defensive coordinator: Chris Rippon (1st season)
Offensive scheme: pro option
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 36
Stadium: Carrier Dome (turf, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1998
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1994
1998 TSN rank: 19th
1998 record: 8-4 (lost to Florida in Orange Bowl);
Big East: 6-1 (1st)

NATIONAL RANK
46

tailback, is being considered. A quarterback in high school, Brown's emergence could signal an emphasis on the option game. Redshirt freshman Troy Nunes will battle for time, too. It may take all three to fill McNabb's shoes.

Running backs: As if losing McNabb isn't bad enough, Paul Pasqualoni also must replace fullback Rob Konrad and tailback Kyle McIntosh. Touted James Munro could emerge as the main option if Brown stays at quarterback. Redshirt freshman Keeon Walker also may see time. Nick Sudano and Kyle Johnson will work at fullback, along with true freshmen Len Cusumano and Tony Milton.

Receivers: Injuries, academics problems and graduation decimated this unit. Quinton Spotwood is coming off a knee injury that limited him to five games in '98. Heralded recruit Jay Chapman and Maurice Jackson are gone because of academic problems, leaving the not-so-dynamic duo of Jeff Lowe and Pat Woodcock as the most experienced receivers on the squad. Stephen Brominski is a good tight end.

Offensive line: There should be no worries here, with the return of four starters, tackles Mark Baniewicz and Jeff Pilon, center Cory Bowen and guard Bill O'Donnell. Scott Kiernan, a first-team All-Big East selection, needs to be replaced at guard. Joe Burton is the frontrunner, challenged by Frank Giufre and Emerson Kilgore.

Defensive line: Ends Duke Pettijohn and Dwight Freney are proven players. Eric Downing and Giovanni DeLoatch are candidates at end or tackle, although DeLoatch is coming off major shoulder surgery. Also competing for jobs at tackle are Rickie Simpkins, Donald Dinkins, who is coming off a knee injury, and Derrick Corley. If Corley can't control his weight, he may be passed by redshirt freshman Jerry Williams or Peter Moore.

Linebackers: Keith Bulluck and Morlon Greenwood are back from a hard-hitting group. Vernon Banks looks to replace departed Stan Gibbs, though Banks could face a stiff challenge from junior college transfer Idris Price. JR Johnson has moved from safety to bolster what is the deepest unit on the roster.

Secondary: Free safety Quentin Harris was a big surprise as a freshman last year, as was junior cornerback Will Allen. David Byrd will take over a corner

spot, with Ian McIntosh manning strong safety. Free safety Quentin Harris is coming off a sensational freshman season.

Special teams: Nate Trout, 12 of 16 on field-goal attempts last year, gives Syracuse a solid and experienced leg. The Orangemen need a replacement for punter Doug Dunkin. The kick return team will not be the same without Kevin Johnson, who set a conference career record with four kickoff returns for touchdowns. Spotwood returned four punts for touchdowns in 1997.



Place in history: Few schools have as reliable a kicker as Trout, who has kicked more extra points (156) than any other Big East player ever.

Schedule: The Orangemen need to feast on non-conference morsels Toledo and Central Michigan before playing host to Michigan and West Virginia. Syracuse plays its toughest league opponents, Virginia Tech and Miami, on the road.

Coaching: Chief among many moves was defensive coordinator George DeLeone switching back to offensive coordinator to replace Kevin Rogers, who left for Notre Dame for the same post. Linebackers coach Chris Rippon was promoted to defensive coordinator. Brian Schottenheimer, son of former Kansas City Chiefs coach Marty, was hired to coach receivers.

Outlook: This will be one of Pasqualoni's most challenging years, after the loss of five key offensive starters and the shuffling of his staff. Still, a bowl is possible if a quarterback emerges.

1998 RESULTS

Tennessee, L 34-33
 at Michigan, W 38-28
 Rutgers, W 70-14
 at North Carolina St., L 38-17
 Cincinnati, W 63-21
 at Boston College, W 42-25
 Pittsburgh, W 45-28
 at West Virginia, L 35-28
 Virginia Tech, W 28-26
 at Temple, W 38-7
 Miami, Fla., W 66-13
 Florida, L 31-10

SCHEDULE

S2—at Toledo
 S11—Central Michigan
 S18—Michigan
 S25—West Virginia
 02—Tulane
 07—at Pittsburgh
 016—at Virginia Tech
 030—Boston College
 N6—Temple
 N13—at Rutgers
 N27—at Miami, Fla.

ORANGEMEN DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Jeff Lowe	5-11	196	Sr.	Pat Woodcock	5-9	174	Jr.
T	Mark Baniewicz	6-6	282	Sr.	*Erik Kaloyanides	6-3	276	Fr.
G	Bill O'Donnell	6-3	291	Sr.	Emerson Kilgore	6-3	308	Jr.
C	Cory Bowen	6-4	288	Sr.	P.J. Alexander	6-4	272	So.
G	Joe Burton	6-5	280	So.	Frank Giufre	6-3	272	Sr.
TE	Jeff Pilon	6-6	290	Sr.	Sean O'Connor	6-4	290	So.
T	Stephen Brominski	6-5	256	Sr.	Mike Bennett	6-4	256	Sr.
WR	Quinton Spotwood	6-0	190	Sr.	Maurice Minter	6-3	201	So.
QB	Madei Williams	6-2	202	So.	*Troy Nunes	6-0	163	Fr.
TB	Dee Brown	6-0	206	Jr.	James Munro	5-10	206	So.
FB	Nick Sudano	6-1	240	Sr.	Kyle Johnson	6-1	231	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Duke Pettijohn	6-1	244	Jr.	Giovanni DeLoatch	6-5	286	So.
T	Donald Dinkins	6-4	270	Sr.	Eric Downing	6-3	267	Sr.
T	Rickie Simpkins	6-3	286	Jr.	Derrick Corley	6-2	320	Sr.
E	Dwight Freney	6-0	247	So.	Mark Holtzman	6-4	238	So.
OLB	Morlon Greenwood	6-0	230	Jr.	Kevin O'Neil	6-3	225	Sr.
MLB	Keith Bulluck	6-3	230	Sr.	Matt Klaus	6-3	250	Sr.
OLB	Vernon Banks	6-4	210	Sr.	JR Johnson	6-0	210	So.
CB	Will Allen	5-11	182	Jr.	Andre Brinson	5-7	152	So.
SS	Ian McIntosh	5-10	172	Sr.	Willie Ford	6-1	185	So.
FS	Quentin Harris	6-0	198	So.	*Maurice McClain	6-0	159	Fr.
CB	David Byrd	6-0	192	Sr.	Latroy Oliver	5-7	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Nate Trout	5-9	179	Sr.	P Nate Trout	5-9	179	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

5 Boston College

Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Coach: Tom O'Brien (8-14, 2 years)

Offensive coordinator: Dana Bible (1st season)

Defensive coordinator: Frank Spaziani (1st season)

Offensive scheme: multiple

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 9

Lettermen lost: 16

Lettermen returning: 56

Stadium: Alumni (turf, 44,500)

Last league title won: none

Last bowl appearance: 1994

1998 TSN rank: 67th

1998 record: 4-7; Big East: 3-4 (5th)

1998 RESULTS

at Georgia Tech, W 41-31

Rutgers, W 41-14

Temple, W 31-7

at Louisville, L 52-28

Virginia Tech, L 17-0

Syracuse, L 42-25

Navy, L 32-31

at Miami, Fla., L 35-17

Notre Dame, L 31-26

at Pittsburgh, W 23-15

at West Virginia, L 35-10

SCHEDULE

S4—Baylor

S18—at Navy

S25—at Rutgers

O2—Northeastern

O9—at Temple

O16—Pittsburgh

O23—Miami, Fla.

O30—at Syracuse

N13—West Virginia

N20—at Notre Dame

N26—at Virginia Tech

NATIONAL RANK
47

Quarterbacks: For the third consecutive year, Boston College coach Tom O'Brien has to choose a new quarterback, as Scott Mutryn has departed.

O'Brien's choices are junior Tim Hasselbeck and touted redshirt freshman Brian St. Pierre.

Hasselbeck has experience and athleticism, but BC coaches

have fallen in love with St. Pierre's passing skills and polished arm.

Running backs: Mike Cloud, the Eagles' all-time leading ground gainer and the 1998 Big East rushing leader with 1,726 yards, is gone. Cedric Washington and Carlton Rowe are unproven holdovers. They may lose out to true freshmen William Green, BC's top recruit, and fullback J.P. Comella.

Receivers: With Anthony DiCosmo, Jermaine Walker and Dennis Harding gone, there is no proven go-to guy among a group headed by Derrick Crittenden, a seldom-used reserve last year. Steve Dapra and Kenney Gaskins are unproven options. Dedrick Dewalt may emerge as the best deep threat. Robert Ellis, who has good hands, size and speed, should be a fine tight end for a school known for its tight ends.

Offensive line: The interior was gutted by the departure of guards Doug Brzezinski and Dan Collins and center Damien Woody. Paul Zukauskas, who started at tackle last year, will move to guard, making way for Michael Cook at tackle. Massive Darnell Alford will be the other tackle, and Paul LaQuerre looks to be the other guard. Butch Palaza will be the center.

Defensive line: This area is so strong that new coordinator Frank Spaziani will switch to a 4-3 alignment. Nose tackle Chris Hovan, strong and savvy, is flanked by Mike Willetts and Adam Grace. Reserve tackle Antonio Garay is big, strong and tough. Adam Newman, an outside linebacker last season, has been converted to rush end, where redshirt freshman Derrie Rossy adds depth.

Linebackers: Brian Maye will be missed. Andrew Romanowsky and Scott Bradley were impressive as true freshmen, but they can't be expected to take command. Coaches will look to seniors Frank Chamberlin, Steve Martin and redshirt freshman Jerome Ledbetter to add depth.

Secondary: Free safety Pedro Cirino and strong safety George White, who rank 1-2 as the team's hardest hitters, are the leaders. The cornerback situation is dicey. Jonathan Ordway, who started as a redshirt freshman last year, is the best cover man. DuJuan Daniels, who started as a true freshman, will man the other corner slot if he isn't moved to receiver. D.J. Sutton and Jason Smith, who have battled back from

injury, provide depth.

Special teams: John Matich is back to handle kicking duties; he made 10 of 14 field-goal attempts last year. The Eagles need to replace Jason Malecki, who led the Big East in punting last year with a 42.1-yard average. Rowe is an electrifying kick returner.

Schedule: The Eagles should get off to a solid start, with Baylor, Navy, Rutgers, I-AA Northeastern, Temple and Pittsburgh the first six opponents. Three of the last four games are on the road, at Syracuse, Notre Dame and Virginia Tech.



Getting defensive: With much of the offense gone and most of the defense back, it is incumbent that Hovan and Co. come through.

Coaching: O'Brien had to replace four assistants. Dana Bible comes from the Philadelphia Eagles as offensive coordinator, replacing Jeff Jagodzinski, who joined the Green Bay Packers. O'Brien promoted Spaziani from running backs coach to defensive coordinator after Tim Rose left for East Carolina. David Magazu arrived from Memphis as offensive line coach. Former BC running back Jason Swepton is the new running backs coach, and Bob Shoop arrived from Army to coach defensive backs.

Outlook: After enduring consecutive 4-7 seasons, O'Brien knows his honeymoon is over. With nine starters back, the defense will be good, and it will have to compensate for an offense that is being re-tooled. An impressive recruiting class gives O'Brien reason for hope.

EAGLES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Derrick Crittenden	5-9	183	Sr.	*Jamal Burke	6-2	190	Fr.
T	Michael Cook	6-5	300	Jr.	Dan Murphy	6-5	265	So.
G	Paul LaQuerre	6-3	305	Jr.	John Richardson	6-3	271	So.
C	Butch Palaza	6-4	287	Sr.	Dan Koppen	6-3	265	So.
G	Paul Zukauskas	6-5	306	Jr.	Matt Knapp	6-5	308	So.
T	Darnell Alford	6-4	323	Sr.	Marc Colombo	6-8	289	So.
TE	Bryan Arndt	6-4	260	Sr.	Robert Ellis	6-4	252	Jr.
WR	Dedrick Dewalt	5-9	169	So.	Steve Dapra	5-11	171	Jr.
QB	Tim Hasselbeck	6-2	211	Jr.	*Brian St. Pierre	6-4	185	Fr.
RB	Carlton Rowe	5-11	200	Sr.	Cedric Washington	5-10	197	Jr.
FB	Ryan Burch	6-3	246	Jr.	*Ryan Utzler	6-2	228	So.

DEFENSE

E	Adam Grace	6-3	272	Jr.	Sean Guthrie	6-4	241	So.
T	Chris Hovan	6-3	285	Sr.	Antonio Garay	6-4	265	So.
T	Mike Willetts	6-4	286	Sr.	Kevin Crane	6-4	257	So.
E	Adam Newman	6-5	236	Sr.	*Derrick Rossy	6-3	220	Fr.
OLB	Scott Bradley	6-2	210	So.	Steve Martin	6-2	218	Jr.
MLB	Frank Chamberlin	6-0	239	Sr.	Andrew Romanowsky	6-2	230	So.
OLB	*Jerome Ledbetter	6-2	210	Fr.	Joe Mickens	6-0	207	Sr.
CB	Jonathan Ordway	5-10	176	So.	Jason Smith	6-2	193	So.
SS	George White	6-1	200	Sr.	Carlos Moore	5-10	185	So.
FS	Pedro Cirino	5-11	191	Sr.	*Marco Williams	6-1	200	Fr.
CB	DuJuan Daniels	5-11	170	So.	Ramon Johnson	5-10	187	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	John Matich	6-2	203	Sr.	P	Kevin McMyler	6-1	187	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

6 Rutgers

NATIONAL RANK
71

Site: New Brunswick, N.J.
Coach: Terry Shea (7-26, 3 years; 22-32-2 overall, 5 years)

Offensive coordinator: Terry Shea (4th season)

Defensive coordinator: Dennis Creehan (2nd season)

Offensive scheme: Pro set

Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9

Lettermen lost: 16

Lettermen returning: 47

Stadium: Rutgers' (grass, 41,500)

Last league title won: none

Last bowl appearance: 1978

1998 TSN rank: 70th

1998 record: 5-6;

Big East: 2-5 (tie 6th)

1998 RESULTS

Richmond, W 7-6

at Boston College, L 41-14

at Syracuse, L 70-14

Army, W 27-15

Miami, Fla. L 53-17

at Pittsburgh, W 25-21

Tulane, L 52-24

Temple, W 21-10

at Navy, W 36-33

West Virginia, L 28-14

at Virginia Tech, L 47-14

SCHEDULE

S4—at California

S11—Texas

S25—Boston College

O2—at Wake Forest

O9—Virginia Tech

O16—at West Virginia

O23—Pittsburgh

O30—at Temple

N6—Navy

N13—Syracuse

N20—at Miami, Fla.

Quarterbacks:

Mike McMahon established himself by passing for 2,203 yards last season. In 20 games, including 16 starts, he has completed 247 of 488 passes for 3,462 yards and 18 touchdowns. Although he struggled somewhat to grasp Terry Shea's West Coast offense in his first year, he now appears

to have full command of the system. With Brendan Edmonds gone, there is no experienced backup. Senior Mike Jones was listed No. 2 in spring practice.

Sophomore Perris Verduzco, who was academically ineligible in the spring, will be groomed as McMahon's replacement if he's available.

Running backs: Senior Jacki Crooks has proved to be durable, playing in all 33 games the past three years. He led the team in rushing each of the last two seasons. Crooks will have help from fullback Dennis Thomas, who started six games at halfback last year, and Tosh Riddick, a wide receiver last year who was tried at halfback in the spring.

Receivers: The Knights lost top-flight receivers Bill Powell and Andy Holland, and there are questions about Walter King, who will be coming back from a back injury, and Delrico Fletcher, who was academically ineligible in the spring. Errol Johnson, a junior college All-American, is among the recruits expected to contribute immediately. Freshman Greg Graves, Rob Ring and former defensive back Shin Black will compete at tight end, left vacant by Chris Hutton's departure.

Offensive line: McMahon should feel confident in his protection with the return of the entire line, including left tackle Shaun O'Hara, an All-Big East second-team selection. Ben French will settle in at right tackle after playing at two other positions. Guards Iosefa Puaauli and Rich Mazza need to continue to improve in their second year as starters.

Defensive line: The defensive line returns intact. End Wayne Hampton, an All-Big East second-team, selection, has outstanding speed and quickness, but he needs to be more consistent. The rushing defense ranked last in the conference (246 yards per game) and 110th in the nation last season. Nose guard Ansel George-Shields and tackle Mike Belh have experience but lack great size and can be overpowered by run-blockers.

Linebackers: The loss of Aaron Brady, the team's leading tackler, leaves a huge void at middle line-backer. Freshman Raheem Orr (6-4, 225) is Brady's likely replacement. Dax Strohmeier, a rangy player

with outstanding athleticism, and Jabari Moore, who made 101 tackles last year, give Rutgers two hard hitters on the perimeter.

Secondary: Three starters return from last year's group that led the Big East in pass defense (181.9 yards per game). Garrett Shea, the coach's son, is the team's feistiest and fastest player in the secondary. Junior college transfer Shahib White, regarded as an outstanding cover corner and a hard hitter, likely will take the spot vacated by Reggie Stephens.



Full speed ahead: With 821 yards last season, Crooks not only is durable, he's the leading returning rusher in the Big East.

Special teams: Steve Barone made 8 of 12 field-goal attempts, including a 51-yarder, as a freshman last year. Punter Charlie Titus also returns.

Schedule: Rutgers has three tough non-conference games early—California, Texas and Wake Forest—plus a challenging league opener at home against Boston College.

Coaching: Shea was named 1998 Big East coach of the year after pulling off one of the biggest turn-arounds in the nation, guiding the Scarlet Knights to a 5-6 record after a 0-11 record in '97.

Outlook: Shea and the Scarlet Knights gained some indication last year that the program is headed in the right direction. They need a winning record this year to further that promise.

SCARLET KNIGHTS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Walter King	6-2	200	Sr.	Sean Carly	6-1	190	Fr.
T	Shaun O'Hara	6-4	280	Sr.	Dave Showalter	6-5	290	So.
G	Rich Mazza	6-3	280	Jr.	Mike Esposito	6-4	315	So.
C	Mike DeLucia	6-3	300	Sr.	Jeremy Womack	6-4	270	So.
G	Iosefa Puaauli	6-2	300	Sr.	Howard Blackwood	6-3	295	So.
T	Ben French	6-4	315	Sr.	Karl Mayall	6-5	270	Sr.
TE	Shin Black	6-1	230	Sr.	Greg Graves	6-4	225	Jr.
WR	Errol Johnson	6-2	205	Jr.	Tosh Riddick	5-10	175	So.
QB	Mike McMahon	6-3	215	Jr.	Mike Jones	6-4	225	Sr.
TB	Jacki Crooks	5-10	205	Sr.	Kevin Sinclair	5-8	205	Jr.
FB	Dennis Thomas	6-1	225	Jr.	Seth Stanton	6-2	255	So.

DEFENSE

E	Marcus Perry	6-1	260	So.	Bill Tulloch	6-3	255	So.
NG	Thomas Petko	6-0	285	Jr.	Greg Pyszczymuka	6-2	270	So.
T	Ansel George-Shields	6-3	260	Sr.	Mike Belh	6-3	275	Sr.
E	Wayne Hampton	6-5	250	Sr.	Raishard Crawford	6-0	230	Jr.
OLB	Dax Strohmeier	6-4	210	Sr.	Roger Wingate	6-1	200	Sr.
ILB	Wes Robertson	6-3	230	So.	Mike Pridgeon	6-1	215	Sr.
ILB	Jabari Moore	6-0	210	Sr.	Tarell Freeney	6-0	200	Jr.
CB	Tony Berry	6-2	190	So.	Doug Casper	6-0	185	Fr.
SS	Ben Martin	6-0	205	Jr.	Brian Bender	6-2	210	Fr.
FS	Garrett Shea	5-10	190	Sr.	Jabari Miller	5-11	185	So.
CB	DeWayne Thompson	5-8	190	So.	Robert Crenshaw	5-10	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Steve Barone	6-0	180	So.	P	Charlie Titus	6-6	210	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

7 Temple

Site: Philadelphia
Coach: Bobby Wallace (2-9, 1 year; 84-45-1 overall, 11 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bobby Wallace (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Raymond Monica (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 18
Lettermen returning: 42
Stadium: Veterans (turf, 66,592)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1979
1998 TSN rank: 96th
1998 record: 2-9;
 Big East: 2-5 (tie 6th)

1998 RESULTS

at Toledo, L 24-12
 Akron, L 35-28
 at Boston College, L 31-7
 at Maryland, L 30-20
 William & Mary, L 45-38
 West Virginia, L 37-7
 at Virginia Tech, W 28-24
 at Rutgers, L 21-10
 at Pittsburgh, W 34-33
 Miami, Fla., L 42-7
 Syracuse, L 38-7

SCHEDULE

S2—Maryland*
 S11—at Kansas State
 S18—at Akron
 S25—at Marshall
 O2—at Pittsburgh
 O9—Boston College
 O16—at Miami, Fla.
 O23—at West Virginia
 O30—Rutgers
 N6—at Syracuse
 N20—Virginia Tech
 *at Franklin Field, Philadelphia

NATIONAL RANK
94

Quarterbacks: What once was a four-man derby has been whittled down to a two-man race between sophomores Devin Scott and Mac DeVito. Scott seems better suited to run Bobby Wallace's multiple offense because of his strong arm and excellent running ability. DeVito's best assets are his

competitiveness and instincts. Kevin Harvey and Greg Muckerson, who started 1998 as the No. 1 and No. 2 quarterbacks, are at other positions.

Running backs: With Stacey Mack gone, senior Elmarko Jackson will become the focus of the running game. A dangerous player with a lot of ability, Jackson's biggest challenge is staying healthy. He was hampered last year by injuries and started only four games. Marcus Godfrey will start at fullback ahead of Jason McKie, the starter at the end of last season.

Wide receivers: A burner with the ability to run crisp routes, Carlos Johnson burst upon the scene as a true freshman last year. Muckerson, the former quarterback, will bring an added dimension to the offense as a backup wideout and at H-back when the Owls use a four-wide set. Three players will compete at tight end, with senior Joe Khamis the probable starter.

Offensive line: There are plenty of bodies to work with here. Konrad Dean, who started seven games at guard last season, is penciled in at left tackle. Tim Leach will work at right tackle after making seven starts last year. The interior could pose problems, especially after the departure of dependable center Charlie Morris. Terrence Matthews is the leading candidate to replace Morris.

Defensive line: Raheem Brock made an immediate impact at end when he was switched from tight end last season. He and Tyrone Ditzel will give an undersized front some much-needed speed on the perimeter. By the end of last season, speed had become Temple's greatest defensive asset. Senior Peppi Pichette and junior Mathias Nkwenti will spearhead the point of attack from their tackle spots.

Linebackers: The Owls figure to reap the reward for suffering so many injuries at this spot last year. Seven letter winners return, including junior LeVar Talley, who flourished in the middle before suffering a broken arm in midseason. Taylor Suman emerged as Talley's backup and made a case for himself by finishing the year with 99 tackles. Sophomores Leon Gray and Jason Davis gained considerable time as true freshmen. Akeiff Staples and Chris Pitt should lend depth, provided they can stay healthy.

Secondary: Two 11-game 1998 starters, cornerback Lamond Adams and strong safety Jerry Urias, need to

be replaced. Harvey's athleticism should make him a factor at cornerback. Fulton Fryar or Leon Washington will start on the other corner. Chonn Lacey will play the Owl position, a combination of linebacker and defensive back.

Special teams: This is an area of huge concern. Temple doesn't have a player on its roster who has kicked in a college game. The Owls have help on the way, they hope, in the form of freshman kicker Cap Poklemba and punter Garvin Ringwelski.

Schedule: Temple lists cavernous Veterans Stadium



MIKE MACHER/TEMPLE

Immediate impact: Despite starting just five games as a redshirt freshman, Suman finished as Temple's second-leading tackler last year.

as its home venue, but it's not likely to give the Owls any advantage, especially not in 1999, as they play just one of their first eight games there.

Coaching: When Wallace surfaced as a possible candidate at Auburn, Temple made certain it kept its coach from bolting after just one year by restructuring his contract and announcing plans to improve the facilities. Wallace bolstered his staff by hiring Mike Schad as offensive line coach and bringing back Nick Rapone, who was Temple's defensive backs coach from 1983-86 and defensive coordinator from 1987-88.

Outlook: Wallace may be on his way to erasing Temple's image as a perennial loser, especially after he guided the Owls to a huge victory at Virginia Tech last year. With more talented and experienced players at his disposal, look for the Owls to continue their ascent.

OWLS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Jerry Butler	6-0	185	Jr.	Khyel Dicks	6-3	210	Jr.
T	Konrad Dean	6-4	304	Jr.	Derek Henson	6-3	280	Jr.
G	Rick Williams	6-2	292	Sr.	*Greg Hilliard	6-5	285	Fr.
C	Terrence Matthews	6-4	275	Sr.	*Vincent Gabriele	6-5	285	Fr.
G	Theo Ross	6-4	290	Sr.	Shane Holmes	6-3	325	So.
T	Tim Leach	6-8	320	Sr.	Theo Ross	6-4	290	Sr.
TE	Joe Khamis	6-2	250	Sr.	Dwayne Brown	6-3	255	Sr.
WR	Carlos Johnson	5-9	167	So.	Lou Cammisa	6-0	190	Sr.
QB	Devin Scott	6-1	200	So.	Mac DeVito	5-11	190	So.
TB	Elmarko Jackson	5-11	205	Sr.	Sydney Thomas	6-3	210	So.
FB	Marcus Godfrey	5-10	210	Sr.	Jason McKie	5-11	225	So.

DEFENSE

E	Raheem Brock	6-4	255	Jr.	Tyrone Ditzel	6-3	230	So.
T	Mathias Nkwenti	6-4	285	Jr.	Russell Newman	6-2	240	So.
T	Peppi Pichette	6-4	272	Sr.	*David Terry	6-2	260	Fr.
E	Marlon Calloway	6-4	228	Jr.	Calvin Wilkinson	6-3	230	Sr.
OLB	Chonn Lacey	6-2	195	So.	Brian West	5-11	190	So.
ILB	Taylor Suman	6-2	235	So.	Leon Gray	6-1	215	So.
ILB	LeVar Talley	5-11	225	Jr.	Jason Davis	6-2	235	So.
CB	Kevin Harvey	5-11	195	Sr.	Brett Crespina	5-10	175	So.
SS	Sean Martin	6-0	195	Sr.	Edrick Harley	6-2	215	So.
FS	Leon Washington	6-0	180	Sr.	*Gerard Bishop	6-0	180	Fr.
CB	Fulton Fryar	5-11	180	Sr.	Philip Shepard	5-10	180	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	*Bart Chasler	6-0	195	Fr.	P	Dan McManamon	5-9	180	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

8 Pittsburgh

Site: Pittsburgh
Coach: Walt Harris (8-15, 2 years; 19-39 overall, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Walt Harris (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Larry Coyer (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: pro-set
Defensive scheme: multiple 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 41
Stadium: Pitt (turf, 56,150)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 84th
1998 record: 2-9; Big East: 0-7 (8th)

1998 RESULTS

Villanova, W 48-41
 Penn State, L 20-13
 at Virginia Tech, L 27-7
 Akron, W 35-0
 at North Carolina, L 29-10
 Rutgers, L 25-21
 at Syracuse, L 45-28
 Temple, L 34-33
 Boston College, L 23-15
 at Miami, L 38-10
 West Virginia, L 52-14

SCHEDULE

S4—Bowling Green
 S11—at Penn State
 S18—Kent
 O2—Temple
 O7—Syracuse
 O16—at Boston College
 O23—at Rutgers
 O30—Virginia Tech
 N6—Miami, Fla.
 N13—Notre Dame
 N27—at West Virginia

NATIONAL RANK
95

Quarterbacks: For the third year in a row, coach Walt Harris will break in a new passer. Matt O'Connor, who backed up Matt Lytle last year, is the only candidate with experience. That gives him an edge over John Turman, a highly touted junior college transfer who was redshirted last season, and Ohio

State transfer David Priestley.

Running backs: Brandon Williams, touted as the second coming of Tony Dorsett, was considerably less in his freshman season, rushing for only 394 yards last year. He'll be challenged by Ohio State transfer Nick Goings, a speedy and shifty runner who was a highly regarded recruit out of high school. Beefy Kevan Barlow, a stop-gap last year, could have a reduced role.

Receivers: Whoever play quarterback will have a sure-handed target in Latef Grim, the league's leading returning receiver. He likely will draw double-team coverage unless someone steps up as a replacement for Terry Murphy. Rangy R.J. English and Kenney Ketchen need to emerge as deep threats. Ben Kopp and Kirk McMullen form a solid 1-2 punch at tight end.

Offensive line: This unit was a work in progress a year ago, with the integration of three first-year starters, tackles Mark Browne and Ryan Hansen and guard Jeff McCurley. That was a big reason why the Panthers had the worst rushing attack in the Big East. With four starters back, including guard Ethan Weidle, expect improvement. McCurley was a defensive tackle in 1997, and now he'll shift from guard to center.

Defensive line: The Panthers lost tackle Ken Pegram, who led the team in sacks (five) and tackles for loss (13) last year, and end Marlin Young. Julian Graham returns at rush end, and Demond Gibson is a headliner at one tackle. Keith Featsent will start at the other tackle spot and Brandon Dewey is an end. Bryan Knight, who began his career as a wideout, has moved to rush end.

Linebackers: This is a young unit, but its teems with potential. Ryan Gonsales showed last season he has the stuff to replace Phil Clarke. Big and athletic Bryan Jacobs will start on the strong side or in the middle. Nick Cole, Amir Purifoy and Karim Thompson round out the unit.

Secondary: This is a strength. Three starters return, lead by cornerback Hank Poteat, who ranked fourth in the nation in interceptions (six) last year. D.J. Dinkins is a big-hitting free safety, and Seth Hornack ranks among the conference's best strong safeties. Chiffon Allen and Demetrious Rich will battle for the open

cornerback spot.

Special teams: Foes will want to avoid the return duo of Poteat and Allen. Poteat established Pittsburgh season and career records for kickoff return yards last year. When Poteat was sidelined by an injury, Allen filled in more than adequately. Nick Lotz, one of three kickers tried by the Panthers last season, could keep the role. Inconsistent Greg DeBolt is back after averaging just 38.9 yards per punt.

Schedule: There are seven home games. The non-conference slate is difficult, with a trip to Penn State



FRED VUICH FOR TSN

Mr. Versatility: The ball often ends up in the hands of Poteat, who intercepted six passes and returned 52 kicks last season.

and a visit by Notre Dame. The Panthers play three of their toughest league foes—Syracuse, Virginia Tech and Miami—at home in the final year for Pitt Stadium.

Coaching: Harris hired Bryan Deal, former coach at Princeton High in Cincinnati, as recruiting coordinator. Curt Cignetti, the former recruiting coordinator, now coaches tight ends. J.D. Brookhart moved from tight ends to receivers coach. Offensive coordinator Steve Mooshagian left to coach receivers with the Cincinnati Bengals. Harris, an offensive mastermind, will call plays.

Outlook: Harris needs to resolve questions at quarterback and running back for the Panthers to have any chance at a winning record. With Harris' knack for developing offensive talent, Pitt could rebound quickly from its recent sorry state.

PANTHERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	R.J. English	6-3	205	So.	Kenney Ketchen	6-1	195	Sr.
T	Mark Browne	6-5	280	Sr.	*Joe Manganello	6-4	285	Fr.
G	*Bryan Anderson	6-5	290	Fr.	*Khi Downey	6-4	300	Fr.
C	Jeff McCurley	6-5	290	Jr.	Chad Reed	6-2	260	Fr.
G	Ethan Weidle	6-6	300	Sr.	Timothy Robertson	6-4	260	Jr.
T	Ryan Hansen	6-7	295	Sr.	Dan Cornelius	6-4	270	Sr.
TE	Ben Kopp	6-4	280	Sr.	Kirk McMullen	6-4	250	Sr.
WR	Latef Grim	6-0	185	Jr.	Julius Dixon	5-10	170	Sr.
QB	Matt O'Connor	6-3	205	Sr.	John Turman	6-4	215	Jr.
TB	Nick Goings	6-0	215	Jr.	Brandon Williams	6-0	210	So.
FB	Bhris Feola	6-1	230	Sr.	Mark Moothart	6-0	235	So.

DEFENSE

E	*Ryan Smith	6-4	235	Fr.	Bryan Knight	6-2	225	So.
T	Keith Featsent	6-2	260	So.	Mike White	6-3	275	Jr.
T	Demond Gibson	6-4	300	Sr.	Mike Bosnic	6-6	290	So.
E	Brandon Dewey	6-4	250	So.	Julian Graham	6-3	250	Sr.
OLB	Karim Thompson	5-11	200	Sr.	Kody Miller	6-1	215	Sr.
MLB	Ryan Gonsales	6-2	230	So.	Bryan Jacobs	6-2	240	Jr.
OLB	Amir Purifoy	6-2	230	So.	Nick Cole	6-2	225	So.
CB	Hank Poteat	6-0	190	Sr.	Isaac Williams	6-0	175	Sr.
SS	Seth Hornack	5-10	195	Sr.	Mark Ponko	5-10	195	So.
FS	D.J. Dinkins	6-4	225	Sr.	*Ramon Walker	5-11	190	Fr.
CB	*Demetrious Rich	5-9	160	Fr.	Chiffon Allen	5-10	170	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Nick Lotz	6-2	210	So.	P	Greg DeBolt	6-0	185	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

BIG EAST

1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING (RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD)

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Mike Cloud, Boston College	11	308	1,726	5.6	14	156.9
2. Amos Zereoue, West Virginia	10	261	1,430	5.5	13	143.0
3. Edgerrin James, Miami	11	242	1,416	5.9	17	128.7
4. Jacki Crooks, Rutgers, Sr.	11	159	821	5.2	3	74.6
5. Stacey Mack, Temple	11	125	749	6.0	4	68.1
6. Lamont Pegues, Virginia Tech	11	178	745	4.2	7	67.7
7. Kyle McIntosh, Syracuse	11	137	742	5.4	4	67.5
8. Shyrone Stith, Virginia Tech, Jr.	11	133	699	5.3	3	63.6
9. James Jackson, Miami, Jr.	10	82	545	6.6	5	54.5
10. Kevan Barlow, Pittsburgh, Jr.	10	121	533	4.4	4	53.3

PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Donovan McNabb, Syracuse	11	251	157	.626	5	2,134	8.5	22	158.9
2. Marc Bulger, West Virginia, Sr.	11	369	240	.650	8	3,178	8.6	27	157.2
3. Scott Covington, Miami	11	270	159	.589	8	2,301	8.5	19	147.8
4. Scott Mutryn, Boston College	11	286	171	.598	11	2,218	7.8	12	131.1
5. Mike McMahon, Rutgers, Jr.	11	276	143	.518	16	2,203	8.0	12	121.6
6. Matt Lytle, Pittsburgh	11	306	159	.520	14	2,092	6.8	16	117.5
7. Nick Sorensen, Virginia Tech, Jr. 11	59	31	.525	6	306	5.2	2	87.0	

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. David Saunders, West Virginia	11	69	788	6	6.3	11.4
2. Latef Grim, Pittsburgh, Jr.	10	60	906	9	6.0	15.1
3. Kevin Johnson, Syracuse	11	60	894	9	5.5	14.9
4. Shawn Foreman, West Virginia	11	52	759	8	4.7	14.6
5. Reggie Wayne, Miami, Jr.	9	42	629	4	4.7	15.0
6. Terry Murphy, Pittsburgh	9	40	563	3	4.4	14.1
7. Anthony DiCosmo, Boston College	11	47	804	7	4.3	17.1
8. Khori Ivy, West Virginia, Sr.	11	40	650	5	3.6	16.3
9. Bill Powell, Rutgers	11	37	730	4	3.4	19.7
Ricky Hall, Virginia Tech, Sr.	11	37	650	8	3.4	17.6

1998 TEAM STATS

OFFENSE

RUSHING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Syracuse (10)	228.4
2. Miami (22)	202.9
3. Temple (26)	196.8
4. Boston College (27)	195.8
5. Virginia Tech (37)	178.4
6. West Virginia (49)	164.1
7. Rutgers (85)	124.8
8. Pittsburgh (95)	115.8

PASSING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. West Virginia (14)	295.3
2. Miami (27)	248.5
3. Boston College (48)	215.7
4. Pittsburgh (60)	206.0
5. Rutgers (62)	203.8
6. Syracuse (68)	201.6
7. Virginia Tech (97)	138.4
8. Temple (105)	116.4

TOTAL

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. West Virginia (15)	459.4
2. Miami (17)	451.5
3. Syracuse (22)	430.0
4. Boston College (28)	411.6
5. Rutgers (78)	328.6
6. Pittsburgh (84)	321.8
7. Virginia Tech (88)	316.7
8. Temple (90)	313.2

RUSHING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia Tech (11)	102.2
2. Miami (35)	135.6
3. Syracuse (42)	142.4
4. Pittsburgh (47)	146.4
5. Boston College (68)	163.8
6. West Virginia (74)	169.0
7. Temple (101)	218.9
8. Rutgers (110)	246.0

PASS EFFICIENCY

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. Virginia Tech (11)	103.4
2. Syracuse (28)	110.1
3. West Virginia (42)	114.4
4. Pittsburgh (83)	133.3
5. Miami (85)	134.0
6. Rutgers (86)	134.1
7. Temple (93)	140.0
8. Boston College (98)	143.6

TOTAL

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia Tech (7)	284.9
2. Syracuse (27)	326.8
3. Pittsburgh (45)	348.3
4. West Virginia (49)	353.9
5. Miami (62)	374.0
6. Boston College (83)	398.0
7. Temple (89)	404.1
8. Rutgers (94)	427.9

RECRUITING

1. MIAMI: Just when you thought the Hurricanes couldn't get any faster, they added speedy cornerback Tory Mitchell, who won Texas state prep titles in the 100- and 200-meter sprints. Miami did a superb job keeping south Florida's prime prospects home, getting offensive lineman Vernon Carey, wideout Andre Johnson and twin linebackers Jerrell and Jerrell Weaver. Everyone wanted wideout Jason Geathers. California product Ken Dorsey is the quarterback of the future. Running back Jarrett Payton is the son of Walter.

2. BOSTON COLLEGE: The Eagles signed 23 players, including eight top prospects from fertile New Jersey. The top Jersey signees are burly running back William Green, offensive lineman Augie Hoffmann and defensive end Tom Martin. Two top local prospects, fullback J.P. Comella and gargantuan offensive lineman Keith Leavitt, said no to Syracuse. The offensive line was augmented by six signees, with Jim Connor, Mark Parenteau and Frank Wilpert the other notables.

3. SYRACUSE: Paul Pasqualoni recovered nicely from the disappointing recruiting setbacks dealt by Boston College by landing fullback Len Cusumano and Chris Buda, one of six offensive linemen. The gem of the class is Clifton Smith, who heads a strong group of linebackers that includes Rich Scanlon. Josh Thomas heads a group of five defensive linemen. The Orangemen failed to land a highly regarded quarterback.

4. VIRGINIA TECH: The Hokies didn't sign a quarterback or tailback. They landed several defensive linemen, including stars Nathaniel Adibi and Jacob Gibson. Andrae Harrison is a quality wideout and a former high school teammate of Michael Vick, the Hokies' projected starting quarterback this season. Keith Willis is a big-time tight end. Defensive backs Garnell Wilds and Michael Crawford look good. Charles Hattan is a touted offensive lineman.

5. WEST VIRGINIA: Don Nehlen repaired gaping holes on the offensive and defensive lines by signing nine linemen. Joe Chaparro, Justin Johnson and Jason Davis are notable defensive linemen, and junior college transfers John Paricka and Cortez McNeil provide more help. Tim Brown, Geoff Lewis and Ben Timmons are the top offensive linemen. Quincy Wilson was the top in-state running back. Tim Frost, Shaun Piper and Grant Wiley are star linebackers. Keep an eye on tight end Tory Johnson and safety Cassell Smith.

6. RUTGERS: Though he lost a lot of talent to Boston College, Terry Shea managed to keep his share of home talent by landing linebacker Raheem Orr and receiver Rysaun Conover. Antoine Lovelace and junior college transfers T.C. Everett and Errol Johnson should fill a big need at wide receiver. Shane Smith and Ken Whiteside are linebackers to watch. Brian Duffy and Krzysztof Kaczorowski are stellar home-grown offensive linemen.

7. TEMPLE: Bobby Wallace built on the good class he signed last year, landing several defensive linemen. The headliners are Dan Klecko, the son of former New York Jets defensive tackle Joe Klecko, and J.D. Stanley. Junior college transfer Dante Coles figures to start in the secondary. Prep school arrivals Tanardo Sharps (running back) and Terrence Stubbs (receiver) bring needed athletic ability.

8. PITTSBURGH: For the second year in a row, Walt Harris beat Joe Paterno for the Pittsburgh area's top recruit. A year ago, Harris signed running back Brandon Williams. This year he landed quarterback Rod Rutherford. Athlete Robb Butler, defensive back William Ferguson, linebacker Brian Guzek, tight end Dan LaCarte and fullback Lousaka Polite are other big-time area signees. In addition, Harris made in-roads into Florida, landing receiver Antonio Bryant and running back Torrie Cox from Miami's Northwestern High. Darrell McMurray is a touted defensive lineman.

SCOUTING

Big East

What once appeared to be a wobbly bowl situation apparently has stabilized. Although the inclusion of Notre Dame as one of the Big East's bowl participants rankled some within the conference—especially when the Irish took a slot away from a league team last season by landing a berth in the Gator Bowl—commissioner Mike Tranghese insisted it was a win-win situation for all parties, saying it strengthened the league's as well as Notre Dame's bowl posture. What exactly did the Big East gain? Tranghese says the conference used Notre Dame as a valuable bargaining chip in landing a four-year commitment from the Gator and Insight.com bowls at a time when the league "was not negotiating from a position of strength." Meanwhile, Notre Dame was able to avoid any more trips to Shreveport, La., by guaranteeing itself no worse a bowl berth than in the Gator or Insight.com. According to terms of the Big East's deal, if Notre Dame is not eligible for a slot in the Bowl Championship Series, the Gator is allowed to select the

Virginia Tech. Temple averted last place and will look to improve on its 2-9 record of a year ago with the return of a savvy and battle-tested sophomore group.

Descending: Syracuse, Rutgers. The Orangemen lost way too much offense with the departure of their starting backfield, not to mention their biggest offensive threat, quarterback Donovan McNabb. Rutgers enjoyed a modicum of success with a sixth-place finish and a 5-6 record. A schedule with non-conference games against California and Texas—in addition to a grueling stretch of league games—will make it difficult to sustain that success.

Best matchup: Of Miami's first five games, three are huge—Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic on August 29, Penn State on September 18 at the Orange Bowl, and Florida State on October 9 in Tallahassee. The Hurricanes travel to Virginia Tech on November 13 for a game that could be a determining factor in the league championship.

Bowl-bound: Miami looks to be the conference's representative in the Bowl Championship Series, with Virginia Tech, West Virginia, Syracuse and perhaps Boston College vying for one of the remaining two berths in the Gator and Insight.com bowls. The Big East could land a fourth bowl affiliation with the Music City Bowl.

Biggest shoes to fill: None will be bigger than McNabb's. For the last three years, he was the Big East offensive player of the year. He changed the offensive landscape in the conference. Whoever replaces McNabb—be it Madei Williams, Dee Brown or Troy Nunes—is not expected to have the same impact and no doubt will face expectations, fair or unfair, to provide the Orangemen with the same leadership and offensive spark that McNabb did during his four-year reign.

Most overrated player: Brandon Williams, Pittsburgh. Touted as the second coming of Tony Dorsett, the running back from New Kensington, Pa., was expected to be the Panthers' biggest area recruit since Dorsett. Williams failed to live up to those expectations in his 1998 freshman season. He gained 394 yards on 110 carries, including a long gain of 24 yards, and scored two touchdowns.

Most underrated player: Chris Hovan, Boston College. A starter since his freshman year, Hovan has slowly but steadily emerged as a stalwart of the Eagles' defen-



Broken record: Attention to special teams is one reason Beamer's Hokies always are in contention for the Big East championship.

sive front seven at nose tackle. He made 81 tackles and five sacks last season. Regarded as one of the strongest and toughest players on Boston College's defense, his name usually is not the first mentioned among the league's defensive stars, but that should change this season.

Best coach: Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech. Seems as though Beamer has turned this category into a broken record. It's hard to argue with his success during his 12 years at Tech. Beamer has led the Hokies to national prominence with bowl trips in each of his last six seasons, going a combined 53-19 during that stretch. Virginia Tech's special teams have been among the best in the conference, if not the country.

Best staff: Virginia Tech. Beamer will be the first to tell you that a coach is only as good as his players and staff. In Beamer's case, he has had the benefit of both.

Coach on the hot seat: Tom O'Brien, Boston College. After going 4-7 in each of his first two seasons, O'Brien knows it will be critical to begin winning, especially in October. In each of the last two seasons, the Eagles have lapsed into season-killing tailspins by going 0-for-October. That's likely to change this year; the Eagles open the month by playing host to Northeastern, a crosstown Division I-AA opponent.

Odds and ends: Miami will resurrect its series with Florida in 2002 and 2003. The Hurricanes last played the Gators in the 1987 season opener for both teams. The 2002 game will be played September 7 in Gainesville. The following year the teams will play in the Orange Bowl. Florida holds a 25-24 lead in the series. —Michael Vega

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBs	DBs		
BOSTON COL.	6	7	8	3	6	6	7	5
MIAMI	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2
PITTSBURGH	8	6	5	7	4	4	6	8
RUTGERS	5	5	7	6	7	8	8	7
SYRACUSE	4	3	3	5	5	5	3	4
TEMPLE	7	4	6	8	8	7	5	6
VIRGINIA TECH	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
W. VIRGINIA	3	8	4	4	3	3	4	3

Fighting Irish twice during the four-year pact and the Insight.com can take them once. Despite the fact that Notre Dame knocked a Big East team out of the Gator, the conference managed to land four teams in bowl games last season. Syracuse went to the Orange Bowl, West Virginia to the Insight.com, Virginia Tech to the Music City and Miami to the Micon PC.

Ascending: Boston College, Temple. After back-to-back 4-7 seasons, Boston College has the schedule for a 6-0 start. The Eagles will be bolstered by an infusion of talent from its crop of recruits, hailed by many to be the best in school history. Temple made significant strides under first-year coach Bobby Wallace by winning its first two road games in conference play, including a huge victory at

MOUNTAIN WEST



CONFERENCE
RANK

7

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY MARK ANDERSON, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

	Conference			Overall						
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Air Force	8-1	297	146	12-1	468	185	72-39	.649	3,024	2,341
San Diego State	7-1	194	128	7-5	243	244	57-46-2	.543	3,270	2,955
Brigham Young	7-2	265	176	9-5	402	290	78-35-2	.678	3,677	2,792
Wyoming	6-2	165	171	8-3	222	215	64-42-1	.598	2,940	2,655
Utah	5-3	246	162	7-4	339	227	62-43	.590	2,821	2,486
Colorado State	5-3	235	163	8-4	345	263	66-42	.611	3,089	2,594
New Mexico	1-7	164	286	3-9	274	397	41-64	.390	2,767	3,056
UNLV	0-8	122	265	0-11	156	389	30-71	.297	2,159	3,439

All teams were members of Western Athletic Conference in 1998

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS

SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive

Best offensive players

Best defensive players

BIG GAMES non-conference, conference

1. BRIGHAM YOUNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two big holes must be filled in the line. Front seven needs to carry a big load. 	K Owen Pochman QB Kevin Feterik	LB Rob Morris E Byron Frisch	Sep. 9 vs. Washington Oct. 30 vs. Air Force
2. AIR FORCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depth must emerge at the skill positions. Smallish line can't get blown off the ball. 	WR Matt Farmer T James Norman	LB Craig Thorstenson LB Travis Meidinger	Sep. 18 at Washington Oct. 30 at Brigham Young
3. SAN DIEGO STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production at QB needs to improve. Strong line needs to protect LBs and DBs. 	WR Damon Gourdine C Mike Malano	E Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila SS Rico Curtis	Sep. 18 at So. California Nov. 6 vs. Brigham Young
4. UTAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must control the clock with talented RBs. Linebackers must play with reckless abandon. 	RB Mike Anderson G Sam White	E John Frank LB Kautai Olevao	Sep. 4 at Washington State Oct. 16 at Air Force
5. WYOMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking for consistent line play. Strong line, secondary must carry load. 	WR Wendell Montgomery G Dan Delcorio	FS Al Rich T Jeff Boyle	Sep. 4 at Tennessee Oct. 23 vs. Colorado State
6. COLORADO STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breaking in third QB in three years. Revamped secondary needs to develop. 	FB Kevin McDougal C Blane Saipaia	LB Rick Crowell SS Erik Olson	Sep. 4 vs. Colorado Sept. 16 at Brigham Young
7. UNLV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line must give skill players chance to shine. Need to toughen against the run. 	RB Jeremi Rudolph WR Len Ware	LB James Sunia CB Kevin Thomas	Sep. 18 vs. Iowa State Sep. 25 vs. Utah
8. NEW MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack experience at QB and RB. Green line needs to mature quickly. 	WR Martinez Williams G Jason Carson	S Brian Urlacher CB Marcus McDavid	Sep. 11 vs. New Mexico St. Oct. 30 vs. UNLV

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Kevin Feterik, Brigham Young

Because of the many outstanding quarterbacks Brigham Young has produced, Kevin Feterik doesn't see himself in the same company with Steve Young, Jim McMahon and Ty Detmer. Nevertheless, he follows in the tradition of the prototypical BYU quarterback and is The Sporting News' preseason Offensive Player of the Year in the Mountain West. Forget receiving that kind of attention entering the season—just being a quarterback for the Cougars is not easy.

"That's a lot of pressure because this school has such a rich tradition with great quarterbacks. I almost wonder whether my name should be mentioned with them," says Feterik. "Back home I was kind of a hero. Here, I'm another quarterback."

Not quite. The 6-foot, 190-pound Feterik is coming off a season in which he completed 202 of 336 passes for 2,718 yards, 16 touchdowns and five interceptions. The job wasn't his alone going into the season. He and Drew Miller shared it for the first five games before Miller suffered a shoulder injury against UNLV. The Cougars were 2-3, and fans openly showed their displeasure with boos. That's when the season turned around. Feterik led BYU on a seven-game winning streak.

"(Miller) was coming back, but I saw where I could have a chance to seal the position," Feterik says. "I played well and felt comfortable. The coaches assured me I was going to be the guy and there wouldn't be any changes. It helped me with my confidence." Miller transferred after the season to Montana.

"I've got a lot more confidence now," Feterik says. "I'm a senior now. It's time to step up and make a name for myself. The last couple of years, the seniors ended with a loss, and that's not how I want to leave this place." —Mark Anderson

DEFENSE



Rob Morris, Brigham Young

As his junior season came to a close, Rob Morris was certain he was going to return to Brigham Young for another year. Then the season actually ended.

"After the (Liberty Bowl) game, I started thinking about it," he says.

He even started thinking about leaving BYU. "I went back and forth," he says. "At times I felt I really wanted to leave and give the NFL a shot. I really thought about it and made a good decision."

In other words, the 6-2, 250-pound linebacker decided to return for his senior season, which is a good thing for the Cougars. He is The Sporting News' preseason defensive player of the year in the Mountain West.

Although the lure to stay was tremendous, given that BYU should win the

Mountain West, passing up the NFL's big bucks was not easy. Morris was conflicted after the Cougars' 41-27 loss to Tulane.

"I wrote the NFL, and they said I would go in the second or third round," he says. "It depends on who you talk to, but it could mean I could go in the first round or the fifth round. That was part of the reason for staying, because of the uncertainty of the situation."

Perhaps a repeat of 1998 will solidify Morris' NFL stock. He was defensive player of the year in the Western Athletic Conference's Mountain Division after making 147 tackles. He made 16 tackles for losses, and had 11 hurries and six sacks.

Morris hopes to make his final season a successful first one in a new conference. "The biggest factor is we've got a better attitude," he says. "Two years ago we weren't mentally strong. Last year we were better. This year, mentally our attitude is stronger than since '96." That team went 14-1 and won the Cotton Bowl. —Mark Anderson

PRESEASON

All-Mountain West

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Damon Gourdine, San Diego State	5-7	160	Sr.
WR	Wendell Montgomery, Wyoming	6-2	208	Sr.
TE	Andy Kassotis, Utah	6-3	273	Sr.
T	Mike Roberts, Air Force	6-3	275	Sr.
T	James Norman, Air Force	6-3	255	Sr.
G	Dan Delcorio, Wyoming	6-4	293	Sr.
G	Sam White, Utah	6-3	280	Jr.
C	Mike Malano, San Diego State	6-2	300	Sr.
QB	Kevin Feterik, Brigham Young	6-0	190	Sr.
RB	Mike Anderson, Utah	6-2	220	Sr.
RB	Jonas Lewis, San Diego State	5-9	205	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, San Diego St.	6-4	235	Sr.
E	John Frank, Utah	6-5	271	Sr.
T	Jeff Boyle, Wyoming	6-1	280	Jr.
LB	Rob Morris, Brigham Young	6-2	250	Sr.
LB	Kautai Olevao, Utah	6-2	240	Jr.
LB	Craig Thorstenson, Air Force	6-2	245	Sr.
LB	Rick Crowell, Colorado State	6-3	235	Sr.
CB	Brian Gray, Brigham Young	6-2	210	Sr.
CB	Robbie Duncan, Wyoming	5-9	187	Sr.
S	Brian Urlacher, New Mexico	6-4	235	Sr.
S	Al Rich, Wyoming	5-11	197	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Owen Pochman, Brigham Young	6-0	160	Jr.
P	Deone Horinek, Colorado State	6-3	240	Sr.
KR	Damon Gourdine, San Diego State	5-7	160	Sr.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Martinez Williams, New Mexico	5-11	165	Sr.
WR	Matt Farmer, Air Force	6-0	195	Sr.
TE	Kenneth Chandler, Air Force	6-3	255	Sr.
T	Josh Cochran, Utah	6-5	307	Sr.
T	Aaron McCubbins, Brigham Young	6-4	275	So.
G	Andrew Kline, San Diego State	6-2	295	Sr.
G	David Hildebrand, Air Force	6-3	295	Jr.
C	Blane Saipaia, Colorado State	6-3	303	Sr.
QB	Jay Stoner, Wyoming	6-1	203	Jr.
RB	Qualario Brown, Air Force	5-11	183	Jr.
RB	Kevin McDougal, Colorado State	6-0	205	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Byron Frisch, Brigham Young	6-5	270	Sr.
E	Clark Haggans, Colorado State	6-4	235	Sr.
T	Shawn Thomas, Air Force	6-2	265	Sr.
T	Jerome Haywood, San Diego State	5-9	270	So.
LB	Joey Mayo, San Diego State	6-0	230	Sr.
LB	James Sunia, UNLV	5-10	240	So.
LB	Herman White, Wyoming	6-0	219	So.
CB	Marcus McDavid, New Mexico	5-10	169	Sr.
CB	Kevin Thomas, UNLV	5-11	175	So.
S	Rico Curtis, San Diego State	6-0	210	Sr.
S	Kimball Christianson, Utah	6-3	209	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Aaron Elling, Wyoming	6-1	193	Jr.
P	Chris Hunter, Utah	6-4	232	Sr.
KR	Dallas Davis, Colorado State	5-10	165	Jr.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Jeremi Rudolph, RB, UNLV

Defense: Adam Wade, LB, Colorado State

1 Brigham Young

NATIONAL RANK
22

Site: Provo, Utah
Coach: LaVell Edwards (243-91-3, 27 years)
Offensive coordinator: Norm Chow (22nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Ken Schmidt (8th season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 25
Lettermen returning: 46
Stadium: Cougar (grass, 65,000)
Last league title won: 1996 (WAC)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 36th
1998 record: 9-5 (lost to Tulane in Liberty Bowl); WAC Pacific: 7-2 (tie 1st, lost to Air Force in WAC championship game)

1998 RESULTS

at Alabama, L 38-31
Arizona State, W 26-6
at Washington, L 20-10
Murray State, W 43-9
at Fresno State, L 31-21
UNLV, W 38-14
at Hawaii, W 31-9
San Jose State, W 46-43
San Diego State, W 13-0
New Mexico, W 46-21
at Texas-El Paso, W 31-14
at Utah, W 26-24
Air Force, L 20-13
Tulane, L 41-27

SCHEDULE

S9—Washington
S16—Colorado State
S25—Virginia
O1—at Utah State
O9—California
O16—at New Mexico
O23—at UNLV
O30—Air Force
N6—at San Diego State
N13—at Wyoming
N27—Utah

Quarterbacks: Though he still is fighting to earn the respect of Brigham Young fans who are accustomed to watching future NFL quarterbacks, Kevin Feterik is the Mountain West's best quarterback. The Cougars would like to get more production from their passing game, and they plan to use the

shotgun to improve their 237-yard average of last season. Charlie Peterson, Brandon Doman, Kevin Gilbride (son of the Pittsburgh Steelers' offensive coordinator) and Bret Engemann are contending for the backup position.

Running backs: Ronney Jenkins transferred to Northern Arizona, taking his 1,307 yards and 15 touchdowns from '98 with him. He would have been the conference's best back and its top offensive threat. Junior Mahe, who rushed for 481 yards and averaged 4.9 yards a carry in '98, is the likely replacement. The backfield will be bolstered by the return of fullback Kalani Sitake, but the rest of the unit is inexperienced.

Receivers: This is a talented and deep group that could help BYU return to its 300-yard passing games. Margin Hooks should be Feterik's main target, and Ben Horton and Jonathan Pittman were impressive in spring practice. Although the Cougars don't throw to their tight ends often, they have two good ones in Carlos Nuno and Tevita Ofahengaue. Nuno appears to have unseated Ofahengaue as the starter.

Offensive line: The line will have to overcome the loss of left tackle John Tait, who left for the NFL following his junior season. Aaron McCubbins, who was impressive in spring practice, will take Tait's spot. The rest of the line is fairly experienced. Shane Magalei is trying to hold off Dustin Rykert at the other tackle position, and Rykert could play himself into time on the left side. John Skiba, who played some last season, appears to have won the left guard position. Matt Johnson and Kam Valgardson are competing for the right guard spot. Center Jimmy Richards is back.

Defensive line: BYU is fortunate that end Byron Frisch, one of the conference's best linemen, is back. He will have to anchor a rebuilt line. To help compensate for the inexperience up front, BYU installed a zone-blitz package in the spring for use primarily on third downs. Besides Frisch, the expected starters are end Setema Gali and tackles Hans Olsen (Merlin's nephew) and Chris Hoke.

Linebackers: Middle linebacker Rob Morris is the conference's best defender and is being touted for the Butkus Award. He was a key reason the Cougars limited opponents to 18.4 points a game last year. The players on either side of Morris, Michigan transfer Jeff Holtry and Justin Ena, are new.

Secondary: There could be problems at all four positions. The future of cornerbacks Heshimu Robertson and Brian Gray are uncertain. Robertson should be back after his suspension last season for violating the school's honor code, and Gray is working to remain academically eligible. Both safeties are gone from last season. Tyler Nelson should start at one spot, and Jared Lee and Elan Edwards will compete for the other position.

Special teams: Owen Pochman is the conference's best kicker. Jesse Sowards, who punted three times last



Cougars weapon: Pochman, the Mountain West's best kicker, was 20 of 24 on field-goal attempts of less than 50 yards last season.

season for a 47-yard average, will replace J.D. Hartsfield. The kick and punt return roles aren't as settled. If Jaron Dabney returns from a junior college, he should win both jobs. If he doesn't, both jobs are available.

Schedule: The Cougars play host to Washington, Colorado State, Virginia, California, Air Force and Utah—perhaps the most ambitious home schedule in school history. Four of BYU's first five games will be at home.

Coaching: LaVell Edwards' staff has been incredibly stable. All coaches are back for the fifth straight season.

Outlook: BYU should win the Mountain West, assuming its green defense matures into a decent unit. Several teams could make the run for the title difficult.

COUGARS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Margin Hooks	5-11	190	Jr.	Michael Westbrook	6-0	180	So.
T	Aaron McCubbins	6-4	275	So.	Isaac Herring	6-4	305	Fr.
G	John Skiba	6-3	275	Sr.	Alex Jensen	6-5	310	Fr.
C	Jimmy Richards	6-4	295	Jr.	Jason Scukanec	6-2	275	So.
Q	Matt Johnson	6-4	310	Sr.	Kam Valgardson	6-4	275	Jr.
T	Shane Magalei	6-3	290	Jr.	Dustin Rykert	6-6	290	Fr.
TE	Carlos Nuno	6-4	250	Sr.	Tevita Ofahengaue	6-3	250	Jr.
WR	Ben Horton	5-11	175	Jr.	Jonathan Pittman	5-11	180	Jr.
QB	Kevin Feterik	6-0	190	Sr.	Brandon Doman	6-2	195	So.
TB	Junior Mahe	5-11	180	So.	Andrew Ord	6-2	212	Fr.
FB	Kalani Sitake	6-1	240	Jr.	Donny Atuala	6-1	235	Fr.

DEFENSE

E	Setema Gali	6-5	250	Jr.	Brett Keisel	6-6	260	So.
T	Hans Olsen	6-5	285	Jr.	Andrew Nash	6-4	290	Sr.
T	Chris Hoke	6-3	290	Jr.	Chris Watkins	6-2	285	Fr.
E	Byron Frisch	6-5	270	Sr.	Ryan Denney	6-7	265	So.
OLB	Justin Ena	6-3	265	So.	Josh Lowe	6-4	245	Jr.
MLB	Rob Morris	6-2	250	Sr.	Stan Moleni	6-3	245	So.
OLB	Jeff Holtry	6-3	245	Jr.	Chris Stevens	6-1	220	Fr.
CB	Brian Gray	6-2	210	Sr.	Kevon Morton	5-6	170	Jr.
SS	Tyler Nelson	6-3	210	Sr.	Tyson Smith	6-0	203	Jr.
FS	Elan Edwards	6-1	194	So.	Jared Lee	6-0	200	Jr.
CB	Heshimu Robertson	5-9	180	Jr.	Rob Warcup	5-9	160	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Owen Pochman	6-0	160	Jr.	P	Jesse Sowards	5-10	185	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

2 Air Force

Site: Colorado Springs
Coach: Fisher DeBerry (120-64-1, 15 years)
Offensive coordinator: Bob Noblitt (16th season)
Defensive coordinator: Richard Bell (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple option
Defensive scheme: 5-2
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 54
Stadium: Falcon (grass, 52,480)
Last league title won: 1998 (WAC)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 16th
1998 record: 12-1 (beat Washington in Oahu Bowl); WAC Mountain: 8-1 (1st, beat Brigham Young in WAC championship game)

1998 RESULTS

Wake Forest, W 42-0
 at UNLV, W 52-10
 Colorado State, W 30-27
 at Texas Christian, L 35-34
 New Mexico, W 56-14
 Navy, W 49-7
 at Tulsa, W 42-21
 So. Methodist, W 31-7
 at Army, W 35-7
 at Wyoming, W 10-3
 Rice, W 22-16
 Brigham Young, W 20-13
 Washington, W 45-25

SCHEDULE

S4—Villanova
 S18—at Washington
 S25—Wyoming
 O2—at San Diego State
 O9—at Navy
 O16—Utah
 O30—at Brigham Young
 N6—Army
 N13—UNLV
 N20—at Colorado State
 N27—at New Mexico

NATIONAL RANK 33

won't be easy. If Bonds isn't the answer, Mike Thiessen, Keith Boyea or David Diehl could emerge.
Running backs: Spanky Gilliam, last season's leading rusher, is gone, but Air Force has plenty of options remaining. Qualario Brown (521 yards) and Scott McKay (272) are the probable halfbacks. Scott Becker, Jeremiah Laster and Nathan Beard will battle for the fullback position.

Receivers: Air Force wants to get Matt Farmer more involved in the offense, particularly after he caught 35 passes for 650 yards last season. The Falcons need Farmer to become more of a focal point since they will be breaking in a new receiver—Casey Cortese, Ryan Fleming and Brian Bonelli are the top candidates. Kenneth Chandler is a top blocking tight end.

Offensive line: This is an unusual season for the Falcons—they have experience on the line. Four starters are back—tackles James Norman and Mike Roberts, guard David Hildebrand and center Matt Dayoc. Sophomore Terrance Barreau will man the other guard spot.

Defensive line: Tackle Shawn Thomas is the only starter back—but what a guy to have back. Thomas led the team with eight sacks and 15 tackles for losses last season. Buck Hodgkinson, who moved to nose guard from linebacker, and Brandon Sokora have the ability to keep the pass rush strong.

Linebackers: In the team's 3-4 defense, the linebackers are very important. This group, led by Craig Thorstenson, were a key reason the Falcons held opponents to a conference-best 13.3 points a game last season. From an inside position, Thorstenson made a team-high 96 tackles and intercepted three passes. C.J. Zanotti plays the other inside spot. Travis Meidinger is one of the outside starters, and Corey Nelson is expected to start on the other side.

Secondary: The Falcons had 16 interceptions in '98. Duplicating that output could be difficult, because three-fourths of the secondary will be new. Though cornerback Tony Jones is the lone returning starter, the unit does have experience. Safeties Jason Blevins and Jeff Felton and cornerback Nishawn Smagh have played, and quality players such as Travis Logsdon and

Quarterbacks: With Cale Bonds, the Falcons might put more passing into the offense. Subbing for injured Blane Morgan against Navy last season, Bonds completed 9 of 13 passes for 194 yards and two touchdowns, in addition to rushing for 167 yards and two touchdowns. Replacing Morgan

Kurt Duffy could push for starting positions.

Special teams: Not too many problems here. Jackson Whiting and David Adams again will share the kicking duties. Whiting made 7 of 11 field-goal attempts and 53 extra points last season. Adams is the kicker on long field goals and on kickoffs; he made two field goals from beyond 50 yards last season. Scott Gribben, who was responsible for pooch punts last season, takes over full-time. Farmer is an outstanding return specialist. Last season he produced the team's first punt return for a touchdown in 13 seasons.



Heavy hitter: Don't be surprised if Thorstenson (41), an all-WAC first-team pick last season, earns similar honors in the Mountain West.

Schedule: There are the usual games with Army (home) and Navy (away). Other non-league games are at Washington and at home against I-AA Villanova. A key conference matchup is October 30 at Brigham Young.

Coaching: Fisher DeBerry lost two assistants—defensive coordinator Cal McCombs and receivers coach Larry Fedora. Inside linebackers coach Richard Bell will oversee the defense. Vic Shealy (defensive backs) and Tim Horton (wide receivers) have joined the staff.

Outlook: As usual, Air Force should be in the thick of the conference race. If the new defensive starters step up big, the Falcons can compete with favorite Brigham Young for the first Mountain West title.

FALCONS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Matt Farmer	6-0	195	Sr.	Makia Epie	5-11	185	Jr.
T	James Norman	6-3	255	Sr.	Ben Miller	6-4	230	So.
G	David Hildebrand	6-3	295	Jr.	Paul Townsend	6-3	275	Sr.
C	Matt Dayoc	6-2	250	Jr.	Peter Lington	6-3	255	Sr.
G	Terrance Barreau	6-3	250	So.	Paul Townsend	6-3	275	Sr.
T	Mike Roberts	6-3	275	Sr.	Luke Porisch	6-4	275	Jr.
TE	Kenneth Chandler	6-3	255	Sr.	Andy Malin	6-3	230	Jr.
QB	Cale Bonds	6-0	175	Sr.	Mike Thiessen	6-1	195	Jr.
HB	Scott McKay	5-8	175	Jr.	Tom Heier	5-9	175	So.
HB	Qualario Brown	5-11	183	Jr.	Matt Rillos	6-0	205	Sr.
FB	Scott Becker	5-10	215	Jr.	Jeremiah Laster	6-0	223	Sr.

DEFENSE

T	Shawn Thomas	6-2	265	Sr.	Kyle Allen	6-4	255	Sr.
NG	Buck Hodgkinson	6-1	230	Sr.	John Spolsky	5-11	230	Sr.
T	Brandon Sokora	6-3	270	Sr.	Justin Pendry	6-4	230	So.
OLB	Corey Nelson	6-4	215	Jr.	Michael Gallagher	6-1	235	Jr.
ILB	C.J. Zanotti	6-1	235	Sr.	Daniel Alves	6-0	215	Jr.
ILB	Craig Thorstenson	6-2	245	Sr.	Matt Pommer	5-11	210	Jr.
OLB	Travis Meidinger	6-3	245	Sr.	Matt McCraney	6-2	192	So.
CB	Tony Jones	5-8	190	Sr.	Wes Glisson	6-0	190	Jr.
SS	Jeff Felton	5-11	205	Sr.	Charlie Jackson	6-0	202	Sr.
FS	Jason Blevins	6-4	220	Sr.	Travis Logsdon	6-3	220	Jr.
CB	Nishawn Smagh	5-11	185	Sr.	Kurt Duffy	6-0	193	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jackson Whiting	5-11	196	Sr.	P	Scott Gribben	6-1	185	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

3 San Diego State

NATIONAL RANK
48

Site: San Diego

Coach: Ted Tollner (32-26, 5 years; 58-46-1 overall, 9 years)

Offensive coordinator:

Dave Lay (3rd season)

Defensive coordinator:

Claude Gilbert (5th season)

Offensive scheme:

one-back

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 8

Lettermen lost: 16

Lettermen returning: 37

Stadium: Qualcomm

(grass, 71,400)

Last league title won:

1986 (WAC)

Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997

1998 TSN rank: 43rd

1998 record: 7-5 (lost to

North Carolina in Las

Vegas Bowl); WAC Pacific:

7-1 (tie 1st)

1998 RESULTS

Wisconsin, L 26-14

at So. California, L 35-6

Arizona, L 35-16

at Tulsa, W 24-14

Hawaii, W 35-13

at New Mexico, W 36-33

Utah, W 21-20 (OT)

at Brigham Young, L 13-0

Fresno State, W 10-0

at San Jose State, W 34-6

Texas-EI Paso, W 34-29

North Carolina, L 20-13

SCHEDULE

S4—South Florida

S11—at Illinois

S18—at Southern California

S25—at Kansas

Q2—Air Force

O9—New Mexico

O16—at Colorado State

O23—at Utah

N6—Brigham Young

N20—at UNLV

N27—Wyoming

Quarterback: Brian Russell finished strong last season, leading the Aztecs to the Las Vegas Bowl, but he doesn't necessarily have the job locked up. Junior college transfer Jack Hawley could take the job. Russell didn't help his cause with his performance in the Aztecs' 20-13 loss to North

Carolina in the bowl game (10 of 22 passes for 99 yards). Best-case scenario: solid starter, solid backup. Worst-case scenario: quarterback controversy.

Running backs: If the Aztecs' passing game falters, at least they can run the ball. Although they employ a single-back offense, two quality players occupy the position. Larry Ned and Jonas Lewis each averaged 5 yards per carry in '98 and each gained more than 700 yards. Lewis averaged 99.7 yards a game last season and in 13 starts over the past two seasons he has averaged 113 yards.

Receivers: Having Damon Gouridine back will help. A crowded group that includes Lonny Mitchell and junior college transfers Bill Hammett and Deric Martin will compete for playing time. At tight end, the Aztecs can choose from Jim Ange, Gray McNeill and Sakimo Randall.

Offensive line: The Aztecs have four returning starters from a line that helped the team average 186.6 rushing yards. But the best player on that unit, right tackle Rick Austin, is gone. Mike Malano returns at center, along with tackle Greg Spillane, guard Andrew Kline and Brad Elmore, who is moving from quick guard to strong tackle and will compete with Chris Williams and David Neal. Ted Printy is moving into Elmore's old spot.

Defensive line: There is plenty of talent on this unit, starting with end Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, one of the conference's top pass rushers. He made 15 tackles for losses last season. Also back are starters Scottie Nicholson and Jerome Haywood. With their strength up front, the Aztecs could have their best defense since 1970.

Linebackers: The Aztecs lost Joe Jackson and Joseph Tuipala from a defense that limited opponents to 10 rushing touchdowns in '98. Scott Johnson, Martin Chlumak and Michael Duran—all have started—are the top candidates to fill the two open spots. The unit will be helped by the return of Joey Mayo, a speedy middle linebacker who was the Aztecs' second-leading tackler last season with 86.

Secondary: Cornerback Eric Lewis and strong safety Scott Auerbach are gone, but this is not an inexperienced secondary. The Aztecs' pass defense last season was its best in 10 years, but there is room for improve-

ment. Strong safety Rico Curtis and cornerback Aazaar Abdul-Rahim are returning starters, and cornerbacks Kevin Burton and Tairou Smith each has experience. Ricky Sharpe, Stan Bogard or Jermaine Watkins could step up at free safety to allow Curtis to remain at strong safety, where he played at the outset of last season.

Special teams: Gouridine is one of the country's best returners. He is particularly dangerous returning punts (18.4-yard average in '98; second in the nation). The kicker and punter spots are not as solid. Nate



Double duty: Gouridine is an all-league-caliber wide receiver, and he is just as valuable to the Aztecs—if not more so—as a return man.

Tandberg made 8 of 14 field-goal attempts last season. Junior college transfer Justin Sisco is replacing Don Copeland as the punter.

Schedule: The Aztecs' toughest conference games are at home, against Brigham Young, Air Force and Wyoming. The road schedule includes non-conference games that the Aztecs could win (Illinois and Kansas) and one in which they will be overmatched (Southern California).

Coaching: The staff remains stable. Kennedy Pola, who coached running backs for the Aztecs from 1994 to 1996, has returned from Colorado as linebackers coach. He replaced Ron Aiken, who left for Iowa.

Outlook: This is an experienced team coming off a promising season. San Diego State could make a run at the Mountain West title.

AZTECS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Damon Gouridine	5-7	160	Sr.	Deric Martin	6-2	185	So.
T	Brad Elmore	6-3	305	Sr.	Chris Williams	6-5	285	Jr.
G	Andrew Kline	6-2	295	Sr.	*Jonathan Ingram	6-2	285	Fr.
C	Mike Malano	6-2	300	Sr.	Zach LaMonda	6-1	285	So.
G	Ted Printy	6-4	300	Sr.	Kareem Missoumi	6-2	270	Jr.
T	Greg Spillane	6-4	285	Sr.	Mike Houghton	6-5	305	So.
TE	Jim Ange	6-4	240	Sr.	Gray McNeill	6-2	250	Jr.
WR	Sean Pierce	5-8	175	Jr.	*J.R. Tolver	6-3	200	Fr.
QB	Brian Russell	6-2	185	Jr.	Jack Hawley	6-2	210	Jr.
RB	Jonas Lewis	5-9	205	Sr.	Larry Ned	5-11	210	Jr.
FB	Lonny Mitchell	6-2	200	Sr.	Bill Hammett	6-3	200	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila	6-4	235	Sr.	Ryan Iata	6-4	220	So.
T	Antwone Young	6-3	255	Sr.	Akbar Gbaja-Biamila	6-5	250	Jr.
T	Jerome Haywood	5-9	270	So.	*Jared Ritter	6-4	255	Fr.
E	Scottie Nicholson	6-3	265	Sr.	Mark Scott	6-3	270	Sr.
OLB	Martin Chlumak	6-1	235	Sr.	Brian Berg	6-0	240	Jr.
MLB	Joey Mayo	6-0	230	Sr.	Mac Cleary	6-1	230	Sr.
OLB	Michael Duran	6-2	230	Sr.	Scott Johnson	5-11	205	Sr.
CB	Aazaar Abdul-Rahim	5-8	170	Sr.	Kevin Burton	6-2	200	Sr.
SS	Rico Curtis	6-0	210	Sr.	Sheldon Pope	5-10	185	Sr.
FS	Jermaine Watkins	5-10	180	Sr.	Stan Bogard	6-2	195	Jr.
CB	Tairou Smith	5-7	160	Sr.	Wesley Ace	5-9	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Nate Tandberg	5-9	180	Jr.	P	Justin Sisco	6-1	185	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

4 Utah

NATIONAL RANK
51

Site: Salt Lake City
Coach: Ron McBride (62-43, 9 years)
Offensive coordinator: Tommy Lee (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Kyle Whittingham (6th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: Multiple
Starters lost: 8
Lettermen lost: 19
Lettermen returning: 46
Stadium: Rice-Eccles (turf, 45,634)
Last league title won: 1995 (tie, WAC)
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 57th
1998 record: 7-4; WAC Pacific: 5-3 (tie 3rd)

1998 RESULTS

at Utah State, W 30-12
Louisville, W 45-22
Hawaii, W 30-21
Boise State, L 31-28
at Wyoming, L 27-24
Fresno State, W 24-16
at San Diego St., L 21-20
at San Jose St., W 49-17
Texas-El Paso, W 34-27
at New Mexico, W 41-7
Brigham Young, L 26-24

SCHEDULE

S4—at Washington State
S18—Utah State
S25—at UNLV
O2—at Boise State
O9—Northeast Louisiana
O16—at Air Force
O23—San Diego State
O30—at Colorado State
N6—Wyoming
N13—New Mexico
N27—at Brigham Young

Quarterbacks: Darnell Arceneaux needs to get through a season without getting hurt. While sharing time with departed Jonathan Crosswhite last season, Arceneaux suffered a broken finger, concussion and shoulder injury. The shoulder injury lingered into spring practice, preventing Arceneaux from throwing middle-to-deep passes. Crosswhite is gone, so Arceneaux is the starter. Tony Alvarez, Joel Gines and T.D. Croshaw are vying for the backup spot.

Running backs: With Ronney Jenkins having transferred from Brigham Young, Mike Anderson probably is the league's best back. He is coming off a season in which he rushed for 1,173 yards and 12 touchdowns. Opponents can't key on Anderson, because Omar Bacon gained 718 yards and scored nine touchdowns. They helped make Utah's offense the best in the WAC last season with an average of 415.3 yards a game. Three other backs also could play, including redshirt freshman D'Shaun Crockett, whose speed has prompted coaches to install a weakside run into the offense.

Receivers: The Utes took a hit with the loss of Daniel Jones and Jerome Anderson, who combined for 99 receptions and 1,467 yards in '98. The replacement candidates are redshirt freshman Wayman Westbrook, sophomore Clifford Russell and three junior college transfers. Donny Utu (34 catches for 389 yards in '98) returns at one spot. Tight end Andy Kassotis, an imposing player at 6-3, 273 pounds, is back.

Offensive line: Utah ran and passed effectively last season, splitting its total yards almost evenly. A major reason was the play of the line. With four starters back—the best are tackle Josh Cochran and guard Sam White—this should continue to be a formidable unit.

Defensive line: Last season's line was largely responsible for holding opponents to 97.4 rushing yards a game, but three starters are gone. Utah has replacement candidates with experience. Maake Kemoeatu is one of those players; he showed promise at nose guard last year as Pene Talamaivao's backup. End John Frank, the only returning starter, is one of the conference's best pass rushers.

Linebackers: Outside linebacker Kautai Olevao is the lone returnee. He sat out of spring practice because of a dislocated knee cap but should be fine this fall. Howard Christianson looks to be the other outside linebacker. Taulia Lave, Howard Christianson and Wes Tufaga are candidates for the middle position.

Secondary: Every starter is back except for strong safety Robert Love. Free safety Kimball Christianson

has moved to strong safety. Jason Potter, Patrick Dyson and Washington State transfer Cory DeSanti are competing for the free safety position. Starting cornerbacks Andre Dyson and Teneil Ethridge are back; both need to improve their coverage skills.

Special teams: Kicker Ryan Kaneshiro and punter Chris Hunter return. Last season, Kaneshiro made 8 of 13 field-goal attempts. Hunter averaged 41.4 yards, despite a lot of pooch punts. Patrick Dyson probably will handle kick returns, and Andre Dyson likely will be the punt returner.



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Good company: Mike Anderson's 1,173-yard rushing effort in 1998 exceeded the best college season of former Ute Jamal Anderson.

Schedule: It isn't the toughest non-conference schedule in the league, although the Utes will travel to Washington State. They play at Boise State and have home games with Utah State and Northeast Louisiana—all winnable games.

Coaching: After being courted by Hawaii and seriously considering a move, Ron McBride decided to remain at Utah for a 10th season. His staff returns intact.

Outlook: The offensive firepower is in place for the Utes to make a run at the Mountain West title, provided Arceneaux stays healthy. The Utes again should have a strong defense, and that could be the key to their chances of competing with the likes of favorites Brigham Young and Air Force.

UTES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Chris Christensen	5-11	172	Jr.	Dennis Smith	6-3	215	So.
T	Doug Kaufusi	6-7	300	So.	*Jordan Gross	6-4	289	Fr.
G	Luis Park	6-2	300	Sr.	Fisi Moleni	6-3	298	Sr.
C	Steve McKane	6-2	244	Jr.	Michael Richardson	6-3	252	So.
G	Sam White	6-3	280	Jr.	Michael Richardson	6-3	252	So.
T	Josh Cochran	6-5	307	Sr.	Kevin Wilson	6-7	306	So.
TE	Andy Kassotis	6-3	273	Sr.	Matt Nickel	6-6	257	Jr.
WR	Clifford Russell	6-0	180	So.	Stevonne Smith	6-0	180	Jr.
WR	Donny Utu	6-1	196	Sr.	Boo Bendinger	6-0	222	Sr.
QB	Darnell Arceneaux	6-1	187	Jr.	Tony Alvarez	5-11	180	Jr.
RB	Mike Anderson	6-2	220	Sr.	Omar Bacon	6-1	208	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	John Frank	6-5	271	Sr.	Chuck Pine	6-2	220	Sr.
T	Ed Ta'amu	6-2	280	Jr.	Richard Seals	6-2	302	Sr.
T	Maake Kemoeatu	6-5	276	Jr.	*Garrett Smith	6-3	265	Fr.
E	Andy Bowers	6-5	262	Jr.	Ed Johnson	6-5	270	Jr.
OLB	Kautai Olevao	6-2	240	Jr.	Matt Ward	6-3	222	Jr.
MLB	Taulia Lave	6-1	255	Sr.	Wes Tufaga	6-0	216	Jr.
OLB	Howard Christianson	6-2	222	Jr.	Sitivi Lulu	6-0	212	Sr.
CB	Teneil Ethridge	5-10	188	Sr.	Jeff Ray	5-11	165	Sr.
SS	Kimball Christianson	6-3	209	Jr.	Colby Knight	5-11	180	Sr.
FS	Jason Potter	5-11	205	Jr.	Patrick Dyson	6-0	186	So.
CB	Andre Dyson	5-10	184	Jr.	Jay Hill	6-1	186	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Ryan Kaneshiro	5-6	172	So.	P	Chris Hunter	6-4	232	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

5 Wyoming

Site: Laramie
Coach: Dana Dimel (16-8, 2 years)
Offensive coordinator: Manny Matsakis (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Vic Koenning (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: pro set
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 15
Lettermen returning: 46
Stadium: War Memorial (grass, 33,500)
Last league title won: 1993 (tie, WAC)
Last bowl appearance: 1993
1998 TSN rank: 45th
1998 record: 8-3; WAC Mountain: 6-2 (2nd)

1998 RESULTS

Montana State, W 17-9
 at Georgia, L 16-9
 Louisiana Tech, W 31-19
 Utah, W 27-24
 So. Methodist, W 12-7
 at UNLV, W 28-25 (OT)
 Rice, W 34-24
 at Texas Christian, W 34-27
 at Colorado State, W 27-19
 Air Force, L 10-3
 at Tulsa, L 35-0

SCHEDULE

S4—at Tennessee
 S11—Weber State
 S25—at Air Force
 O2—Idaho
 O9—UNLV
 O16—at NE Louisiana
 O23—Colorado State
 N6—at Utah
 N13—Brigham Young
 N20—New Mexico
 N27—at San Diego State

NATIONAL RANK
62

Quarterbacks: No problems here. Junior Jay Stoner passed for 2,373 yards and 11 touchdown last season. The Cowboys went 8-5 and 8-3 in Stoner's first two seasons as a starter. The passing game—with Stoner and a quality, deep group of receivers—has gotten better in each of Dana Dimel's two seasons as coach. Stoner also is a good runner.

Running backs: Arlen Smith, a powerful 225-pounder, appears to have the inside shot after an impressive spring. He may move ahead of Tim Beasley, who was expected to replace Marques Brigham, who had 1,114 rushing yards and nine touchdowns last season. This was the second consecutive impressive spring for Smith; in 1998 spring practice he solidified his move to running back from linebacker and tight end.

Receivers: With Wendell Montgomery (57 receptions in 1998), Kofi Shuck (35) and Willie King (11) back, the Cowboys have one of the best corps in the league. Montgomery, a rangy target who causes matchup problems, is coming off an all-conference season. Teams that try to double-team him will get burned by Shuck and King. In addition, Wyoming could receive contributions from newcomers Brock Ralph and Alex English. Ten receivers should get playing time.

Offensive line: Two starters are back, and two newcomers could make this unit a stronger and more athletic line than it was a year ago. Redshirt freshmen Mike Irvin (center) and Rob Kellerman (right guard) could start. If Jason Wilhelm recovers from a knee injury, he could reclaim his right guard spot, which would give the Cowboys four senior starters. The other three are right tackle Nate Selk, left tackle Chris Cichosz and left guard Dan Delcorio, who is the best of the lot.

Defensive line: The Cowboys have plenty of experience on this unit. Pat Hirsch, Jon Mathis, Brian Van Emmerik, Patrick Chukwurah and Jeff Boyle all return. Van Emmerik, an end, and Boyle and Mathis, both tackles, should be among the best in the Mountain West at their positions. Boyle is especially effective because of his superior strength. Chukwurah had seven sacks last season.

Linebackers: Middle linebacker Herman White could be better than last season's starter, Brian Brown, who ranked second on the team with 64 tackles. While White is the clear standout, the entire group possesses speed and loves to hit, and there is enough depth to withstand injuries.

Secondary: This is one of the top units in the conference. The best player is all-conference free safety Al

Rich. Robbie Duncan is as good as any cornerback in the Mountain West. Newcomers Trent Gamble (strong safety) and Adrian Boston (cornerback) need to emerge as starters.

Special teams: Aaron Elling, among the best kickers in the nation, made 16 of 20 field-goal attempts last year. In spring practice, he made a 62-yard field goal. Matt Swanson and Tom Waring weren't as impressive in trying to fill a void at punter. The Cowboys have several acceptable options as return men, including Brahms Derenoncourt and Jon Jennings.



Cowboys strong man: Boyle is especially effective at penetrating from his defensive tackle spot because of his superior strength.

Schedule: Wyoming opens at national champion Tennessee—it can only get easier after that. Home games with Weber State and Idaho are not automatic victories. Trips to Air Force, Utah and San Diego State will prove difficult. Bitter rivals Colorado State and Brigham Young visit Laramie.

Coaching: Dimel has picked up where Joe Tiller left off, going 16-8 over the last two seasons. Not surprisingly, Dimel's staff has been in demand. He lost three assistants after last season. Former Emporia (Kan.) State coach Manny Matsakis is running the offense.

Outlook: With a stout defense that features a strong line and secondary, the Cowboys will contend for the Mountain West title. But a developing offensive line, re-tooled running back corps and iffy linebackers could end the Pokes' bid for their first bowl since 1993.

COWBOYS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Wendell Montgomery	6-2	208	Sr.	*Brock Ralph	6-3	185	Fr.
T	Chris Cichosz	6-4	286	Sr.	*Adam Goldberg	6-7	300	Fr.
G	Dan Delcorio	6-4	293	Sr.	Pat Hutchinson	6-5	290	So.
C	*Mike Irvin	6-3	269	Fr.	*Ben Murphy	6-4	253	Fr.
G	*Rob Kellerman	6-6	296	Fr.	Jason Wilhelm	6-5	292	Sr.
T	Nate Selk	6-6	293	Sr.	Triton Demos	6-5	277	Sr.
TE	Sterling Kihei	6-3	224	Sr.	Alex English	6-3	202	Jr.
WR	Kofi Shuck	6-2	174	Sr.	Willie King	5-11	198	Sr.
WR	Brahms Derenoncourt	5-11	170	Sr.	Tommy Nash	6-0	160	Sr.
QB	Jay Stoner	6-1	203	Jr.	Matt Swanson	6-2	193	So.
TB	Tim Beasley	5-11	196	Sr.	Arlen Smith	6-0	225	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Brian Van Emmerik	6-4	260	Sr.	Jerel Haynes	6-1	246	Sr.
T	Jeff Boyle	6-1	290	Jr.	Jon Mathis	6-3	292	Sr.
NG	Jason Dreessen	6-4	265	Sr.	*Anthony Stannard	6-2	266	Fr.
E	Patrick Chukwurah	6-2	229	Jr.	Pat Hirsch	6-3	256	Jr.
OLB	Adrian Hill	6-2	231	Jr.	Matt Klotz	6-1	208	So.
MLB	Herman White	6-0	219	So.	Jared Jarnagin	6-1	230	Sr.
OLB	Kwabena Pehrah	5-11	222	Jr.	Cortney Barnes	6-2	216	Jr.
CB	Adrian Boston	5-9	155	Jr.	Jean Dugas	5-10	185	Jr.
SS	Trent Gamble	5-10	188	Sr.	Rich Sweeney	6-2	193	Jr.
FS	Al Rich	5-11	197	Jr.	Matt Lehner	6-1	193	Sr.
CB	Robbie Duncan	5-9	187	Sr.	Mark Sheller	5-9	183	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Aaron Elling	6-1	193	Jr.	P	Tom Waring	6-1	170	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold †Redshirt

6 Colorado State

Site: Fort Collins
Coach: Sonny Lubick (49-23, 6 years; 70-42 overall, 10 years)

Offensive coordinator: Steve Fairchild (3rd season)

Defensive coordinator: Larry Kerr (7th season)

Offensive scheme: one-back

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 13

Lettermen lost: 17

Lettermen returning: 38

Stadium: Hughes (grass, 30,000)

Last league title won: 1997 (WAC)

Last bowl appearance: 1997

1998 TSN rank: 44th

1998 record: 8-4; WAC

Mountain: 5-3 (tie 3rd)

NATIONAL RANK
70

Quarterbacks: Matt Newton looks to have the edge. He could be challenged by Jon Boyer and Steve Cutlip. Newton gained experience last season, passing for 246 yards against UNLV in a 38-16 victory. Boyer is a walk-on, and Cutlip didn't help himself by getting into trouble with the law in an

apparent fraternity prank.

Running backs: Maybe this season Kevin McDougal will stay healthy. He rushed for more than 1,000 yards in 1997, but was injured last season and managed only 547 yards and four touchdowns. McDougal was held out of contact in spring practice. He needs to stay healthy, because the Rams no longer have Damon Washington.

Receivers: Dallas Davis produced good numbers while sharing time with Darran Hall and Corey McCoy in '98. With Hall and McCoy gone, Davis' production should increase. If no one else steps up to take some pressure off Davis, he could face double teams. Frank Rice could be an ideal complement, depending on how well he has recovered from an ACL injury. Jose Ochoa and Cory Woolstenhulme, who also sees duty in the backfield, will compete at tight end.

Offensive line: Possibly more important than finding a quarterback is assembling a solid line. Standouts Anthony Cesario (guard) and Mike Newell (center) are gone. Newell's replacement will be Blane Saipaia, who has moved from tackle. Starters Tim Stuber (tackle) and Justin Borvansky (guard) also return.

Defensive line: Ends Joey Porter and Clark Haggans were an outstanding pass-rushing tandem, but only Haggans is back. Haggans needs three sacks to equal the school career record. If another pass rusher steps up, this should be a decent unit. A handful of players have significant starting experience.

Linebackers: The Rams will have a tough time finding players to replace middle linebacker Willie Taylor, a four-year starter and the school's all-time tackle leader, and outside linebacker Nate Kvamme, also a four-year starter. Strongside linebacker Rick Crowell, who had 87 tackles and four sacks last season, is back. Colorado State coach Sonny Lubick says Crowell is the best linebacker he has coached. Ula Tuitele will take over for Taylor, and Tony Colacion is the leading candidate to replace Kvamme.

Secondary: Inconsistency was a problem for this unit last season, and fixing that wasn't helped by the departure of free safety Myron Terry. If John Howell or Aaron Sprague is unable to step up as Terry's replacement, more pressure will fall on strong safety Erik

Olson. Cornerback Terrence Gibson, who started the last eight games in '98, returns. Andy Engelstad is the top candidate to start on the other side.

Special teams: Steady Derek Franz is gone, leaving C.W. Hurst to take full-time kicking duties. Hurst primarily handled kickoffs in '98. Deone Horinek is the conference's best punter—his 44.8 average placed him in the top 10 nationally last season. Hall and Davis split the kickoff and punt return duties last season, and both were excellent. Davis, who averaged 27 yards on



Health matters: McDougal's health is key; if he can't go, players with little experience will have to carry the Rams' running game.

kick returns and 13 on punts, will handle both roles.

Schedule: Road games with Colorado, Brigham Young and Wyoming don't bode well for a team that is rebuilding. The Rams could get an early test at home against Nevada.

Coaching: Despite the Rams' failure to live up to expectations last season, Lubick doesn't have to worry about his job. Except for defensive line coach Thurmond Moore, who went to Syracuse, the coaching staff remained intact.

Outlook: Last season's 8-4 record was considered disappointing. Reaching that mark this year would qualify as a success. After losing 14 starters, the Rams will be hard-pressed to be a contender for the first Mountain West title.

1998 RESULTS

at Michigan St., W 23-16

Colorado, L 42-14

at Nevada, W 26-14

at Air Force, L 30-27

UNLV, W 38-16

at Texas-El Paso, W 20-17

Tulsa, W 34-7

at New Mexico St., W 47-28

Texas Christian, W 42-21

at Rice, L 35-23

Wyoming, L 27-19

at So. Methodist, W 32-10

SCHEDULE

S4—Colorado*

S11—Nevada

S16—at Brigham Young

O2—New Mexico State

O9—at Fresno State

O16—San Diego State

O23—at Wyoming

O30—Utah

N6—at New Mexico

N20—Air Force

N27—at UNLV

*at Denver

RAMS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Dallas Davis	5-10 165	Jr.	J'Sharon Jones	5-8 175	Sr.
T Broderick Lancaster	6-4 305	So.	*Aaron Brown	6-5 275	Fr.
G David Shohet	6-6 300	So.	Justin Borvansky	6-1 282	Jr.
C Blane Saipaia	6-3 303	Sr.	*Jason Koontz	6-6 265	Fr.
G Broc Finlayson	6-5 270	So.	*Morgan Pears	6-8 275	Fr.
T Tim Stuber	6-5 330	Jr.	*Aaron Green	6-4 275	Fr.
TE Jose Ochoa	6-3 230	So.	Nick Schaumburg	6-4 255	Jr.
WR Pete Rebstock	5-9 176	So.	Frank Rice	6-0 175	Jr.
QB Matt Newton	6-3 205	Jr.	*Steve Cutlip	6-2 198	Fr.
RB Leon Smith	6-4 265	Sr.	Cory Woolstenhulme	6-3 245	Jr.
FB Kevin McDougal	6-0 205	Sr.	Duan Ruff	5-9 175	So.

DEFENSE

E Mike Mackenzie	6-2 265	So.	*Peter Hogan	6-3 225	Fr.
T Casey Wolf	6-4 260	Jr.	Ron Cieslinski	6-4 290	Sr.
T Greg Pollard	6-0 265	Sr.	Jamie Bennett	6-2 265	Jr.
E Clark Haggans	6-4 235	Sr.	Chad McGuckin	6-4 241	So.
OLB Tony Colacion	6-2 224	So.	*Rocky Martin	6-2 210	Fr.
MLB Ula Tuitele	6-2 230	Sr.	*Kendall Kuykendall	6-1 220	Fr.
OLB Rick Crowell	6-3 235	Sr.	*Danny Goolsby	6-2 200	Fr.
CB Andy Engelstad	5-10 190	Jr.	*Rhett Nelson	6-0 185	Fr.
SS Erik Olson	6-1 215	Sr.	Justin Gallimore	5-9 190	So.
FS John Howell	6-0 190	Jr.	Aaron Sprague	6-2 205	So.
CB Terrence Gibson	5-11 174	Jr.	Ameer Lowe	6-1 180	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K C.W. Hurst	5-10 165	So.	P Deone Horinek	6-2 215	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

Site: Las Vegas
Coach: John Robinson (first year; 104-35-4 overall, 12 years)
Offensive coordinators: Gene Dahlquist and John Jackson (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Jeff McInerney (1st season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 27
Lettermen returning: 36
Stadium: Sam Boyd (grass, 40,000)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1994
1998 TSN rank: 110th
1998 record: 0-11; WAC Mountain: 0-8 (8th)

1998 RESULTS

at Northwestern, L 41-7
 Air Force, L 52-10
 at Wisconsin, L 52-7
 at Colorado State, L 38-16
 Nevada-Reno, L 31-20
 at Brigham Young, L 38-14
 Wyoming, L 28-25 (OT)
 at So. Methodist, L 10-7
 Tulsa, L 20-16
 at Rice, L 38-16
 Texas Christian, L 41-18

SCHEDULE

S4—at North Texas
 S11—at Baylor
 S18—Iowa State
 S25—Utah
 O2—at Nevada
 O9—at Wyoming
 O23—Brigham Young
 O30—at New Mexico
 N13—at Air Force
 N20—San Diego State
 N27—Colorado State

Quarterback: Jason Vaughan was recruited from the junior college ranks to win the job, and it appears that he will. Vaughan, who once played at Mississippi, impressed coaches in spring practice with his ability to pick up the offense and connect with receivers. Chris Hayward is the only other

scholarship quarterback returning. Freshmen Ryan Hanson and Matt Ray are promising, but not ready to play.

Running backs: The Rebels went to the junior college ranks for immediate help here, too. Jeremi Rudolph, who signed out of high school with Florida State, will be the tailback. James Wofford is moving to fullback, although he will play some at tailback. The new staff has scrapped the one-back offense of former coach Jeff Horton.

Receivers: Len Ware and Nate Turner should provide UNLV with a fine 1-2 combination. Ware, who caught 39 passes for 500 yards last season, can stretch a defense. Turner, a junior college transfer, is more of a possession receiver who can go over the middle. To make up for the loss of Sam Mineo at tight end, Peter Tramontanas was moved from guard.

Offensive line: Although the Rebels will put some promising skill players on the field, the question is whether the line will allow them to show their talent. Tackles John Greer (10 starts last season) and Robert Grundy (five) are the only linemen with significant experience. This will be a big line. Four 300-pounders will compete for playing time, as well as seven who stand at least 6-5.

Defensive line: In an effort to replace end Talance Sawyer and improve on the 233.9 rushing yards a game the defense gave up last season, some linebackers have been moved to end and some ends to tackle. If Roderick Jones does not replace Sawyer, he will move to tackle. Dusty Pearce is set at one end after playing linebacker last season. Redshirt freshman end Ahmad Briggs has coaches excited following a terrific spring effort.

Linebackers: James Sunia is not involved in the position moves; he's too valuable in the middle. Jerrad Pierucci returns at one of the outside spots, and the other one is up for grabs. Tyler Brickell's one game represents the only starting experience among the candidates.

Secondary: This is one of the more experienced groups on the team. Cornerbacks Kevin Thomas and Andre Hilliard and strong safety Randy Black return. Safety Quincy Sanders, who took a medical redshirt last season because of a knee injury, also is back. No matter who starts where, the Rebels need to make

more big plays and improve on the three interceptions made by their defensive backs last season.

Special teams: Because of UNLV's struggles to score, kicker Tim O'Reilly attempted just 17 extra points and nine field goals last year. Unfortunately for the Rebels, his play mirrored the team's. O'Reilly missed four extra points and four field goals. True freshman Ryan McDonald, who has a strong leg, figures to replace Joe Kristosik, who led the nation in punting last season with a 46.2-yard average. Duane James is back after averaging 25 and 12 yards on kick



Too good to move: Sunia's team-high 115 tackles as a freshman last season assured him of remaining at middle linebacker.

and punt returns last year.

Schedule: UNLV has a chance to break its 16-game losing streak in its opener, at North Texas. The Rebels also have non-conference games at Baylor and Nevada and a home game with Iowa State.

Coaching: Former Southern California and Los Angeles Rams coach John Robinson is charged with making this a competitive program. Most of his assistants were with him at USC. Only secondary coach Mike Bradeson remains from the previous staff.

Outlook: The Rebels won't contend for the Mountain West title this year, but this is a program with promise. Robinson's first recruiting class has been deemed a success, and some of those players will help immediately. The Rebels might surprise a few opponents this season.

REBELS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Len Ware	6-1	185	Sr.	*Troy Mason	5-10	170	Fr.
T	John Greer	6-5	290	Jr.	Brandon Bair	6-7	290	So.
G	Brian Hart	6-5	290	Jr.	Glenn Pilarowski	6-4	300	Sr.
C	Danny Pacheco	6-2	290	Jr.	Greg Hullett	6-3	295	Jr.
G	*Tony Terrell	6-3	295	Fr.	Shane Wagers	6-5	315	So.
T	Robert Grundy	6-5	315	Sr.	*Marquez Ologbese	6-7	295	Fr.
TE	Peter Tramontanas	6-6	260	So.	Kris Fisher	6-2	250	Jr.
WR	Nate Turner	6-2	210	Jr.	Duane James	5-9	175	So.
QB	Jason Vaughan	6-4	205	Jr.	Chris Hayward	6-4	210	So.
RB	Jeremi Rudolph	5-10	170	Jr.	Coury Hankins	5-9	185	Sr.
FB	James Wofford	6-0	200	Jr.	B.J. Edwards	6-2	205	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Dusty Pearce	6-2	250	Sr.	Bret Gilbert	6-2	230	Sr.
NG	Ahmad Miller	6-4	280	So.	Kawika Sagapolu	6-4	295	Fr.
T	Roderick Jones	6-2	245	Sr.	Anthony Suggs	6-1	265	Jr.
E	*Ahmad Briggs	6-3	235	Fr.	*Bill Cofer	5-11	210	Fr.
OLB	Tyler Brickell	6-4	230	Jr.	A.C. Smith	6-1	225	Sr.
MLB	James Sunia	5-10	240	So.	*Austin Allen	6-2	230	Fr.
OLB	Jerrad Pierucci	6-2	225	Sr.	Steve Newton	6-3	225	So.
CB	Andre Hilliard	5-8	155	Sr.	Jamal Wynn	6-0	180	Fr.
SS	Randy Black	6-0	205	Jr.	Quincy Sanders	6-3	200	Sr.
FS	Sam Brandon	6-3	180	So.	Quincy Sanders	6-3	200	Sr.
CB	Kevin Thomas	5-11	175	So.	Amar Brisco	6-0	175	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Tim O'Reilly	6-0	205	Sr.	P	Ryan McDonald	5-11	170	Fr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

8 New Mexico

Site: Albuquerque
Coach: Rocky Long (3-9, 1 year)
Offensive coordinator: Jim Fenwick (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Bronco Mendenhall (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: West Coast
Defensive scheme: 4-2
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 43
Stadium: University (grass, 31,218)
Last league title won: 1964 (WAC)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 102nd
1998 record: 3-9; WAC Pacific: 1-7 (7th)

NATIONAL RANK
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is buried on the depth chart after arriving amid big hype. Into the void stepped redshirt freshman Justin Mobley. He is the most athletic of the choices, but he needs to become a better passer. This story is to be continued.

Running backs: Lennox Gordon (2,131 career yards) and Dion Marion are gone. New Mexico may have a fine replacement in Ted Iacenda, a Southern California transfer. Expectations are high that he will provide the Lobos a ground game to take pressure off an inexperienced quarterback. But for now, he's the reserve fullback. The top option is Rishard Stafford, who began the spring as a receiver. He brings needed speed to the position. Three-year letterman Reginal Johnson is in reserve if needed.

Receivers: A talented corps became more talented with the latest recruiting class. Martinez Williams was the top receiver last season, with 49 catches for 760 and seven touchdowns, and Germany Thompson was a fine second target. Junior college transfers Rob Caston and Lonnie Neal give the Lobos more options; both might play themselves into starting roles.

Offensive line: New Mexico has an experienced line, losing only guard Chris Wallace among its starters. Led by center Jason Carson, the line helped Leigh continue to be successful. Tackle Josh Brown and guard Jon Samuelson are the other returning starters. However, guard Chad Thacker had to give up football because of recurring questions.

Defensive line: Injuries ate into the line last season, and the Lobos used recruiting to address those problems. They signed three junior college transfers and one high school recruit to patch the line. End Jason Purvis, who made five sacks last season, is back.

Linebackers: Just because starters Mike Barnett, Jeff Macrea and Casey Tisdale return doesn't mean it's all good news. This was a largely anonymous group last season—most of the big plays came from linemen and defensive backs, which isn't good considering the team gave up 33.1 points a game.

Secondary: Talk defensive backs in the Mountain West, and you must include the Wyoming and New Mexico secondaries. Star safety Brian Urlacher was an all-conference selection last season, and cornerback Marcus McDavid broke up 13 passes, the second-high-

est total in the Western Athletic Conference. Gone is strong safety Chad Smith. His replacement will be Reginald Sampson.

Special teams: The Lobos lost a lot, particularly punter/kicker Jason Bloom. He averaged 42.8 yards in his career and made three field goals from 50 yards or farther. Bloom shared kicking duties with Mike Ross, who also is gone. True freshman Cort Moffitt should be the new punter, and he might kick, too. Reginal Johnson, who handled some of the kick-return duties, is back.



Big and fast: It's been years since the Lobos have had a defensive player as talented as Urlacher, who made 178 tackles last season.

Schedule: The Lobos have the schedule to avoid another 3-9 season. The non-conference foes include Northern Arizona, a Division I-AA team, and Boise State. Plus, traditional rivals New Mexico State and Texas-El Paso usually are beatable opponents.

Coaching: Rocky Long took over an experienced team last season that failed to live up to expectations, although the Lobos were beset by injuries. Two assistants left for other jobs, and one resigned in the wake of an off-the-field scandal. The new staff members are Robert Anderson (running backs), Robert Bostad (offensive line) and Gerald Bradley (receivers).

Outlook: Whoever emerges as the quarterback needs to establish himself quickly. If not, the Lobos will struggle again. They might struggle anyway if the defense is as porous as it was last season.

LOBOS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Martinez Williams	5-11	165	Sr.	Tyler Fenwick	5-11	185	Sr.
T Josh Brown	6-4	285	Sr.	B.J. Long	6-5	285	So.
G Jon Oliver	6-6	275	So.	Jared St. Aubyn	6-4	300	So.
C Jason Carson	6-3	299	Sr.	James Copple	6-4	290	So.
G Frans Dinkelmann	6-7	270	Sr.	*Eric May	6-6	320	Fr.
T Jon Samuelson	6-5	280	Jr.	*Brian Choi	6-5	300	Fr.
TE Brian Johnson	6-3	235	So.	Jonathan Burroughs	6-4	236	Jr.
QB Germany Thompson	6-3	208	Sr.	Joel Baker	6-0	185	Jr.
WR Justin Mobley	6-2	190	Fr.	Eric Jaworsky	6-2	202	Jr.
RB Rishard Stafford	5-11	203	So.	Holmon Wiggins	6-0	201	So.
FB Jarrod Baxter	6-1	220	So.	Ted Iacenda	6-0	230	Jr.

DEFENSE

E Jason Purvis	6-5	250	Sr.	Adrian Terry	6-2	242	So.
T Henry Stephens	6-3	265	Jr.	Stan Makaafi	6-1	311	So.
E Travis Journagan	6-4	250	Jr.	Aisali Faapouli	6-0	270	So.
OLB Stacy Washington	6-2	230	Sr.	Jeff Macrea	6-2	260	Sr.
MLB Dave Mauer	6-0	229	Jr.	Mike Barnett	6-3	220	Jr.
OLB Casey Tisdale	6-4	245	Sr.	Daniel Reyes	6-0	200	Sr.
S Brian Urlacher	6-4	235	Sr.	*J.R. Thornton	6-1	190	Fr.
CB Marcus McDavid	5-10	169	Sr.	Edwin Garrett	5-9	180	So.
SS Reginald Sampson	6-2	200	Sr.	Anthony Teal	6-3	215	So.
FS Desmar Black	5-10	175	Fr.	Scott Gerhardt	6-0	185	So.
CB Walter Bernard	6-2	195	Jr.	Casey Johnson	5-11	186	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K David McKinney	6-0	185	So.	P Cort Moffitt	6-3	215	Fr.
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* Returning starters in bold. * Redshirt

MOUNTAIN WEST

1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING (RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD)

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Mike Anderson, Utah, Sr.	11	244	1,173	4.8	12	106.6
2. Marques Brigham, Wyoming	11	259	1,114	4.3	9	101.3
3. Ronney Jenkins, Brigham Young, Jr.	13	252	1,307	5.2	13	100.5
4. Jonas Lewis, San Diego State, Sr.	9	181	897	5.0	7	99.7
5. Larry Ned, San Diego State, Jr.	9	153	762	5.0	4	84.7
6. James Wofford, UNLV, Jr.	11	173	816	4.7	5	74.2
7. Omar Bacon, Utah, Sr.	11	160	718	4.5	9	65.3
8. Damon Washington, Colorado State	10	147	644	4.4	5	64.4
9. Lennox Gordon, New Mexico	12	130	571	4.4	4	47.6
10. Blane Morgan, Air Force	11	145	508	3.5	15	46.2

PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Blane Morgan, Air Force	11	112	61	.545	4	1,144	10.2	10	162.6
2. Kevin Feterik, BYU, Sr.	13	336	202	.601	6	2,718	8.1	16	140.2
3. Ryan Eslinger, Colorado State	12	336	206	.613	11	2,386	7.1	14	128.2
4. Jay Stoner, Wyoming, Jr.	11	316	183	.579	10	2,373	7.5	11	126.1
5. Jonathan Crosswhite, Utah	10	221	128	.579	9	1,615	7.3	10	126.1
6. Graham Leigh, New Mexico	12	376	198	.527	17	2,608	6.9	18	117.7
7. Brian Russell, San Diego St., Jr.	11	230	123	.535	7	1,438	6.3	8	111.4
8. Kevin Crook, UNLV	11	115	50	.435	7	688	6.0	6	98.8
9. Chad Reed, UNLV	10	137	59	.431	3	550	4.0	3	79.6

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Daniel Jones, Utah	11	57	809	4	5.2	14.2
Wendell Montgomery, Wyoming, Sr.	11	57	789	0	5.2	13.8
3. Damon Gouridine, San Diego State, Sr.	11	55	649	4	5.0	11.8
4. Martinez Williams, New Mexico, Sr.	12	49	760	7	4.1	15.5
Margin Hooks, Brigham Young, Jr.	13	49	732	3	3.8	14.9
6. Darran Hall, Colorado State, Sr.	11	44	629	2	4.0	14.3
7. Germany Thompson, New Mexico, Sr.	12	43	601	5	3.6	14.0
8. Corey McCoy, Colorado State	12	42	482	3	3.5	11.5
Jerome Anderson, Utah	11	42	658	3	3.8	15.7
10. Len Ware, UNLV, Sr.	10	39	500	2	3.9	12.8

1998 TEAM STATS

OFFENSE

RUSHING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Air Force (3)	266.8
2. Utah (18)	206.0
3. San Diego State (32)	186.5
4. Colorado State (48)	164.3
5. Brigham Young (65)	144.8
6. New Mexico (75)	139.1
7. Wyoming (83)	125.9
8. UNLV (98)	114.8

PASSING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Brigham Young (34)	236.9
2. New Mexico (38)	228.0
3. Wyoming (39)	225.5
4. Colorado State (43)	220.5
5. Utah (55)	209.3
6. San Diego State (91)	146.9
7. UNLV (94)	140.5
8. Air Force (100)	126.8

TOTAL

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Utah (26)	415.3
2. Air Force (36)	393.5
3. Colorado State (40)	384.8
4. Brigham Young (44)	381.7
5. New Mexico (57)	367.1
6. Wyoming (67)	351.5
7. San Diego State (75)	333.5
8. UNLV (111)	255.3

DEFENSE

RUSHING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Brigham Young (5)	91.2
2. Utah (9)	97.4
3. Air Force (15)	113.5
4. San Diego State (34)	134.3
5. Colorado State (58)	155.5
6. New Mexico (78)	172.3
7. Wyoming (85)	181.5
8. UNLV (106)	233.9

PASS EFFICIENCY

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. Utah (18)	106.3
2. Air Force (19)	106.4
3. Brigham Young (21)	107.2
4. Wyoming (35)	111.7
5. Colorado State (47)	116.5
6. San Diego State (57)	121.0
7. New Mexico (68)	125.6
8. UNLV (97)	143.5

TOTAL

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Brigham Young (5)	273.9
2. Air Force (11)	293.5
3. Colorado State (31)	332.3
4. San Diego State (35)	336.5
5. Utah (39)	343.6
6. Wyoming (57)	366.7
7. New Mexico (77)	394.6
8. UNLV (95)	429.2

All teams competed in Western Athletic Conference in 1998

RECRUITING

1. BRIGHAM YOUNG: This easily was the conference's best class. Running back Lucas Staley, Oregon's player of the year, could play immediately. Fahu Tahia is another high-quality running back. Quarterback Matt Berry, the all-time leading passer in the Seattle prep ranks, is expected to redshirt. Wideout Eugene Childs has re-signed after failing to qualify last year, and speedster Cody Fomesbeck further bolsters the position. The offensive line gets a boost from Brian Sanders, David Sollami and Josh Archibald. Keep an eye on linebacker Justin Williams. Cornerback Michael Lafitte and punter Mike Clark, both junior college transfers, will make immediate impacts.

2. UNLV: John Robinson made his presence felt. The gem of the class is running back Jeremi Rudolph, a junior college transfer who signed with Florida State out of high school but failed to qualify and opted to play pro baseball. Rudolph's early commitment prompted other top players to choose the Rebels. Quarterback Jason Vaughan signed with Mississippi out of high school before heading to a junior college. Look for Jamal Wynn, who failed to qualify last year, to help at defensive back and kick returner. Defensive lineman Kawika Sagapolu was Nevada's top prospect. Quarterback Ryan Hanson has a big future.

3. UTAH: This might be the Utes' best class of the 1990s. Linebacker Matt Ward and wideouts Johnny Lundy, Dennis Smith and Stevonne Smith are instant-impact players from junior colleges. Anthony Arceneaux, brother of Utes quarterback Darnell, and Justin Walterscheid add skill at wideout. Edwin Benton, Noah Campbell and Arnold Parker are promising running backs. The offensive line is bolstered by Hawaiians Sean Souza, James Tupola and Siuaki Livi. Tight end Willie Sao, also from Hawaii, and running back Clifton Gatlin also are highly regarded.

4. COLORADO STATE: The talent continues to swell in Fort Collins. Sonny Lubick beat the big boys for linebackers Adam Wade and Eric Pauly and defensive lineman Brian Save. Mark Dreyer and Jarom Fano also are promising defensive linemen. Russell Sprague and junior college transfer Cory Woolstenhulme were signed as athletes. The Rams look set at running back with Rahsaan Sanders and Jeff McGarity. Lamar Anderson, Eric Hill and Chris Pittman strengthen the wideouts corps. Matt Baldischwiler and James Sondrup are promising tight ends.

5. SAN DIEGO STATE: The Aztecs went for immediate help, signing nine junior college players. They include Jack Hawley, who could be the Aztecs' quarterback, and Bill Hammett and Derrick Lewis, who could be catching Hawley's passes. Wideout Aaron Brown and tight end Raleigh Fletcher are talented prep additions. Five junior college transfers—lineman George Heather, linebackers Brian Berg and Ross Marchbanks and defensive backs Bishop Miller and Greg Taylor—must help immediately.

6. NEW MEXICO: The Lobos signed 11 junior college players, including a potential pass-catch duo in quarterback Sean Stein and wideout Rob Caston. The defensive line will get a big boost from LaMarcus Spillers and Stan Makaafi. Offensive lineman David Plenty Hawk, who signed with UCLA out of high school before opting for junior college, brings instant help. So does Douglas Brumfield in the secondary. Ted Iacenda, a transfer from Southern California, could be the Lobos' top running back.

7. WYOMING: With only 15 scholarships, Wyoming had to be choosy. The Cowboys concentrated on the future by signing 13 high school players. Linebacker Curtis Staley, defensive back John Livingston and defensive ends Joe Anderson and Brandon Casavan may help now, along with junior college transfers Jean Dugas (defensive back) and Nate Scott (receiver). The quarterback of the future is Casey Bramlet, and his favorite target might be Eric Haley.

8. AIR FORCE: The Academy does not make its list public until July. Quarterback Kyle Schulle has accepted an appointment and could compete for the starting position.

SCOUTING

Mountain West

The conference took an important step in getting started, signing a seven-year, \$48 million contract with ESPN. Under the deal, Mountain West games will be televised by ESPN, ABC and ESPN2. The league also is trying to put together a Mountain West game of the week for football and men's basketball in the conference's local markets. Craig Thompson, who left his job as commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference for the same position with the Mountain West, negotiated the TV contract. The league should do well in football. While it won't be the caliber of the Pac-10 or SEC, it will be much stronger than what the Western Athletic Conference was and will be. The inaugural race should be close. Six teams have a realistic shot at the conference title.

Ascending: UNLV. No, the Rebels won't go to a bowl game or have a winning season, but they will take steps toward respectability after going 0-11 last season to extend their losing skein to 16 games. They began that process with the hiring of former USC coach John Robinson, whose initial recruiting class is impressive.

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBs	DBs		
AIR FORCE	6	1	4	5	1	5	3	4
BYU	2	7	6	6	2	4	2	1
COLORADO ST.	5	6	7	4	5	8	1	3
NEW MEXICO	8	4	1	7	8	2	8	8
SAN DIEGO ST.	4	2	3	1	6	3	6	6
UNLV	3	8	5	8	7	7	7	2
UTAH	1	3	8	3	4	6	4	5
WYOMING	7	5	2	2	3	1	5	7

Descending: New Mexico. The descent began last season, when the Lobos followed a 9-4 season with a 3-9 record. With questions at quarterback, running back and special teams, New Mexico's descent could plunge the Lobos into the basement this season.

Best matchup: Air Force at Brigham Young, October 30. This game could decide what is expected to be a wide-open conference race. The Falcons, who haven't played the Cougars since 1995 or been to BYU since 1993, never have won in Provo.

Bowl bound: Air Force and Brigham Young have the best chances to play in the postseason. San Diego State probably is next, but the Aztecs are not a lock because of the parity in the league. Colorado State, Utah and Wyoming also

believe they have the stuff to contend for a bowl bid.

Biggest shoes to fill: Brigham Young running back Ronney Jenkins. He left for Northern Arizona after violating BYU's honor code. Jenkins was the Mountain West's most dangerous offensive player, running for a WAC-high 1,307 yards and 13 touchdowns last season. His type of speed rarely was seen in Provo. No big deal. Junior Mahe, who showed potential as a freshman last season, gets the opportunity to take Jenkins' place.

Most overrated player: Brigham Young quarterback Kevin Feterik. Yes, we realize he is our choice for conference offensive player of the year, but hear out the thinking. Feterik is one of the conference's two returning full-time starters at quarterback, and no running back or receiver deserves such consideration. Feterik won't remind anyone of Steve Young, and BYU fans still are waiting for the return to 300-yard passing days.

Most underrated player: New Mexico safety Brian Urlacher, a 6-4, 240-pound football-seeking missile. The former linebacker averaged 14.8 tackles last season. His 178 tackles were the most among Division I-A players and a school record. And just think: Urlacher was a 5-9, 160-pound receiver as a sophomore in high school.

Best coach: LaVell Edwards, Brigham Young. It's hard to dispute what the man has accomplished. He was Mr. WAC. He'll become Mr. Mountain West. For now, anyway. Remember: Mr. Robinson now resides in a Las Vegas neighborhood.

Best staff: Brigham Young. There haven't been any changes in five years. Assistant head coach/offensive coordinator Norm Chow will begin his 22nd season under Edwards, who will start his 28th in Provo. Special teams/defensive line coach Tom Ramage will begin his 26th year at BYU.

Coach on the hot seat: Rocky Long, New Mexico. His name was a description of his first season in Albuquerque. Lobos fans hardly liked going from nine victories under Dennis Franchione to three under Long. And now standout quarterback Graham Leigh is gone.

Odds and ends: Brigham Young has the most ambitious home schedule in school history. The Cougars' first two games will be on Thursday night on ESPN—against Washington and Colorado State. Virginia, California, Air Force and Utah also visit Provo. ... Expect two major new wrinkles



Cost of success: Robinson's track record (104-35-4 as a college coach) speaks for itself. That's why UNLV is paying him \$375,000 annually.

from BYU. The Cougars implemented the shotgun offense and zone-blitz defense in the spring. ... Including its 20-13 loss to North Carolina in the Las Vegas Bowl, all five of San Diego State's defeats last season were to bowl teams. The bowl appearance was the Aztecs' first since 1991. ... Citing lack of desire, highly touted San Diego State sophomore quarterback Spencer Brinton quit after last season. He started five games and played in most of another as a true freshman in 1997 and led the Aztecs to a 4-2 record. Brinton missed most of last season because of a sprained thumb. ... UNLV changed its opener at North Texas from Saturday, September 4 to Thursday, September 2. Although the game probably will not be televised nationally, the Rebels made the switch because it will be John Robinson's first game as coach, and they anticipate more media attention for the event than they would get on a typical Saturday. ... Robinson did not come cheap. The Rebels are paying the former Southern California and NFL coach \$375,000 annually, \$270,000 more than his predecessor, Jeff Horton, would have made in 1999. Horton, who had a year left on his contract, turned down an offer to be reassigned within the athletic department. He is the quarterbacks coach at Wisconsin. ... Running back Ted Iacenda transferred from USC to New Mexico and will be eligible to play immediately. He was granted a residency transfer, meaning he doesn't have to sit out the mandatory year. The NCAA gives such exceptions for special cases. Iacenda said he left USC for Albuquerque because of emotional stress related to sexual assault charges for which he was cleared. —Mark Anderson

CONFERENCE USA

CONFERENCE
RANK 8

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY TIM DOHERTY, HATTIESBURG (MISS.) AMERICAN

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

	Conference			Overall						
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Tulane	6-0	239	149	12-0	540	295	35-66	.347	1,993	2,790
Southern Mississippi	5-1	207	80	7-5	384	238	58-43-1	.568	2,435	2,100
Louisville	4-2	238	203	7-5	473	435	52-49-1	.510	2,482	2,455
East Carolina	3-3	171	215	6-5	274	297	58-44	.569	2,508	2,539
Army	2-4	171	199	3-8	257	325	47-52-1	.470	2,402	2,307
Houston	2-4	175	196	3-8	254	317	35-64-1	.350	2,547	3,255
Memphis	1-5	152	213	2-9	226	340	40-58-1	.404	1,918	2,059
Cincinnati	1-5	161	259	2-9	259	456	40-59-1	.400	2,093	2,674
*Alabama-Birmingham-	-	-	-	4-7	237	308	46-37-2	.541	2,092	1,916
*New member for 1999										

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS

SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive

Best offensive players

Best defensive players

BIG GAMES non-conference, conference

1. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	• New QB will work behind four new linemen. • Three new DB starters may be exposed.	WR Sherrod Gideon RB Derrick Nix	E Adalius Thomas LB T.J. Slaughter	Oct. 30 at Alabama Nov. 20 at Louisville
2. LOUISVILLE	• Ground game needed to balance attack. • JC transfers need to bolster secondary.	QB Chris Redman TE Ibn Green	T Mike Gantous CB Antonio Roundtree	Sept. 4 at Kentucky Nov. 20 vs. So. Mississippi
3. HOUSTON	• Looking for gamebreaker at WR, line depth. • Line is small; DBs must improve.	TB Ketric Sanford WR Jerrian James	S Mike James T Adriano Belli	Sept. 11 at Alabama Oct. 23 at Louisville
4. EAST CAROLINA	• Left side of line is inexperienced. • Must adapt from 4-3 to 3-4 alignment.	QB David Garrard WR LaMont Chappell	LB Jeff Kerr P Andrew Bayes	Sept. 25 vs. Miami (Fla.) Oct. 30 at Houston
5. ARMY	• Line and new quarterback need to mature. • Counting on front seven to carry big load.	QB Joe Gerena HB John Johnson	T Scott Kozak LB Lyle Weaver	Dec. 4 vs. Navy Nov. 20 vs. Houston
6. TULANE	• Ground game needs to thrive with new QB. • Revamped line needs to hold the line.	WR JaJuan Dawson T Bernard Robertson	LB Jerry Phillips SS Sam Knight	Oct. 9 at Mississippi Sept. 4 at So. Mississippi
7. CINCINNATI	• Looking for some wideouts to emerge. • Must adapt to a new 4-3 set.	RB DeMarco McCleskey QB Deontey Kenner	FS Tinker Keck LB DeJuan Gossett	Sept. 25 at Ohio State Nov. 6 vs. Louisville
8. MEMPHIS	• Reliable receivers have to emerge. • Secondary lacks depth.	RB Gerard Arnold K Ryan White	E Tramont Lawless LB Kamal Shakir	Sept. 6 vs. Mississippi Nov. 6 vs. So. Mississippi
9. ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM	• Depth along the line is suspect. • The front seven is undersized and thin.	RB Lucious Foster WR Darrius Malone	SS Kris Neal CB Dwight Platt	Oct. 23 at Wake Forest Oct. 9 vs. Memphis

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

CONFERENCE USA



Chris Redman, Louisville

These days, Louisville quarterback Chris Redman is attracting a lot of attention, as well as a few nicknames. The Franchise. Heisman Trophy candidate. Local hero. Coach John L. Smith simply prefers to call his record-setting quarterback "special." "He's the most accurate quarterback I've ever worked with," says Smith, who worked with future NFL quarterbacks, John Friesz and Doug Nussmeier, at Idaho. "He's a great competitor who can take a hit and step up and deliver."

Redman has been doing just that since assuming the starting role midway through his freshman season in 1996. The 6-3, 215-pound senior has set Louisville and Conference USA records for passing. He has broken every game, season and career mark at a school that

has produced such quarterbacks as Browning Nagle, Jeff Brohm and Johnny Unitas.

In 1998 Redman passed for 4,042 yards and 29 touchdowns, becoming the 14th quarterback in I-A history to reach that yardage plateau. The Cardinals featured the nation's top-ranked offense (559.6 yards a game) and ranked sixth in scoring (40.4 points). Redman was second in the nation in total offense, averaging 400.9 yards a game, and 12th in passing efficiency. Louisville had the best turnaround in college football, going from 1-10 to 7-5 and earning a Motor City Bowl berth.

Hoping to field a tougher, quicker defensive unit, Smith would love to see Redman not have to throw nearly as much this season. But if the Cardinals need him, they know they can count on Redman's arm and a bevy of returning receivers.

"As long as we're able to keep him clean and he stays healthy, there's no reason he can't keep his level of play up there," Smith says. That ought to make for long nights for defensive coordinators around the league. —Tim Doherty



Adalius Thomas, So. Mississippi

Defensive end Adalius Thomas has followed a simple yet effective credo during his career at Southern Mississippi. "If you're good at something, get better at it," he says. "If you're bad at something, get good at it."

Thomas has been getting better and better for the Golden Eagles since stepping onto the field as a redshirt freshman in 1996. He became a starter the following season and has been the focus of offensive coordinators ever since. A two-time first-team All-Conference USA selection, Thomas was the league's 1998 defensive player of the year after leading the conference in sacks (12½) and tackles for loss (20).

Thomas is more than a finesse player and pass-rush specialist. He has improved his strength and technique and

become an effective run-stopper, able to shed blockers and make tackles.

Thomas' 12½ sacks is Southern Mississippi's season record, and he owns the school's career mark with 25½. His 71 tackles last year were a career high, earning him all-conference recognition as well as All-America status from some organizations, including first team by the American Football Coaches Association and third team Associated Press. He considered leaving early for the NFL but was unsure of what to make of projections that had him going anywhere from the second round to the fifth.

"I'm not saying I'm the best player, but I feel I'm better than the fifth round," he says. Thomas enters his senior season with something to prove, much as the Golden Eagles feel they have something to prove after slipping to second place in C-USA after winning or sharing the championship the previous two years. "I want to lead by doing the right things," Thomas says. "In the past, if I made a mistake I learned from it and went on. It was OK. Now that's one mistake too many." —Tim Doherty

PRESEASON

All-Conference USA

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Sherrod Gideon, Southern Mississippi	6-0	176	Sr.
WR	Arnold Jackson, Louisville	5-8	160	Sr.
TE	Ibn Green, Louisville	6-2	225	Sr.
T	Josh Lovelady, Houston	6-3	327	Jr.
T	Bernard Robertson, Tulane	6-4	285	Jr.
G	Shedrick Blackmon, So. Mississippi	6-6	324	Sr.
G	Corey Sewell, Tulane	6-2	260	So.
C	Doug Rosfeld, Cincinnati	6-4	281	Jr.
QB	Chris Redman, Louisville	6-3	215	Sr.
RB	Derrick Nix, Southern Mississippi	6-1	223	So.
RB	Ketric Sanford, Houston	5-8	202	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Adalius Thomas, Southern Mississippi	6-4	252	Sr.
E	Cedric Scott, Southern Mississippi	6-5	255	Sr.
T	Mike Gantous, Louisville	6-2	300	Sr.
T	Norris McCleary, East Carolina	6-4	295	Sr.
LB	T.J. Slaughter, Southern Mississippi	6-2	238	Sr.
LB	Jeff Kerr, East Carolina	6-4	230	Sr.
LB	Ty Trahan, Southern Mississippi	6-1	225	Sr.
CB	Antonio Roundtree, Louisville	5-7	180	Jr.
CB	Forrest Foster, East Carolina	5-10	180	Sr.
S	Tinker Keck, Cincinnati	6-1	195	Sr.
S	Mike James, Houston	6-0	214	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Ryan White, Memphis	5-10	183	So.
P	Graham White, Army	5-10	184	Sr.
KR	LaMont Chappell, East Carolina	6-1	180	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	JaJuan Dawson, Tulane	6-2	201	Sr.
WR	Jerrian James, Houston	6-0	185	Sr.
TE	Scott Regimbald, Houston	6-2	239	Sr.
T	Samein Jones, East Carolina	6-3	290	Jr.
T	Anthony Byrd, Louisville	6-5	290	Sr.
G	Mark Prehar, Army	6-2	272	Sr.
G	Tim Seymour, Memphis	6-1	292	Sr.
C	Kapua Conley, Tulane	6-2	290	Sr.
QB	David Garrard, East Carolina	6-3	240	So.
RB	Toney Converse, Tulane	5-8	168	Jr.
RB	Gerard Arnold, Memphis	5-8	194	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Bryan Thomas, Alabama-Birmingham	6-4	220	Jr.
E	Tramont Lawless, Memphis	6-3	239	Sr.
T	David Hageman, Army	6-2	252	So.
T	John Nix, Southern Mississippi	6-2	278	Jr.
LB	Lyle Weaver, Army	5-11	229	Jr.
LB	Bud Herring, Louisville	6-3	220	Jr.
LB	Pernell Griffin, East Carolina	6-3	240	So.
CB	Dwight Platt, Alabama-Birmingham	5-11	176	So.
CB	William Fields, Houston	5-7	175	Sr.
S	Derrick McNally, Army	6-2	193	Jr.
S	Courtney Dinkins, Louisville	6-0	200	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Joe Judge, Cincinnati	5-11	187	Sr.
P	Andrew Bayes, East Carolina	6-3	200	Sr.
KR	Zek Parker, Louisville	5-10	190	Jr.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Cable Davis, QB, Southern Mississippi

Defense: Grover Thompson, E, Houston

1 Southern Mississippi

NATIONAL RANK
32

Site: Hattiesburg
Coach: Jeff Bower (50-40-1, 8 years)
Offensive coordinator: Larry Kueck (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Dave Wommack (1st season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: multiple
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 46
Stadium: Roberts (grass, 33,000)
Last league title won: 1997
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 38th
1998 record: 7-5 (lost to Idaho in Humanitarian Bowl); Conference USA: 5-1 (2nd)

1998 RESULTS

at Penn State, L 34-6
Texas A&M, L 24-6
SW Louisiana, W 55-0
at Tulane, L 21-7
Louisville, W 56-21
at Army, W 37-13
East Carolina, W 41-7
at Alabama, L 30-20
at Houston, W 21-15
Memphis, W 45-3
at Nevada, W 55-28
Idaho, L 42-35

SCHEDULE

S6—Tulane
S11—Northwestern State
S18—at Nebraska
S25—at Texas A&M
O9—at East Carolina
O16—Army
O23—Cincinnati
O30—at Alabama
N6—at Memphis
N13—SW Louisiana
N20—at Louisville

Quarterbacks: Cable Davis takes over for two-year starter Lee Roberts. He has to learn the ins and outs of an offense that has produced a 2,000-yard passer, a 1,000-yard rusher and 1,000-yard receiver in each of the past two seasons. Davis, who redshirted last season, has not taken a snap since his junior

college days. Jeff Kelly, who has been in the program for two seasons, does not have Davis' arm or mobility. He's next in line if Davis falters.

Running backs: Derrick Nix was a revelation in his first year, leading the league in rushing despite not starting until the fourth game. The players behind Nix include Dawayne Woods, Brandon Francis and Kelby Nance. The latter two are coming off knee injuries. Freshman Ivory Brown is a question mark because of grades. If Nix goes down, he could take the ground game with him.

Receivers: Few teams have as polished and productive a pair of wideouts as Sherrod Gideon and Todd Pinkston. Gideon has topped the 1,000-yard mark each of the past two seasons. Pinkston is coming off a breakout season in which he had 848 yards and seven touchdowns. There's talent waiting in the wings, too, with junior college transfer Shawn Mills, redshirt freshman John Floyd and converted quarterback Josh Gulley.

Offensive line: Senior guard Shederick Blackmon is the only returning starter. Redshirt freshmen Zeb Landers and Jeremy Bridges have potential. The Eagles, who lost tackles Antonio Franklin (grades) and Ernie Moore (personal reasons), need junior college transfers Kendrick Key and Stacy Ford to help right away.

Defensive line: Adalius Thomas, Southern Mississippi's all-time sack leader, has the speed to come off the edge and is strong enough to hold his ground against the run. On the other side, senior Cedric Scott is coming off an all-C-USA season. John Nix and DeQuincy Scott return in the middle, Nix for a third straight year. Backup tackles Gerald Mumford and Daleroy Stewart could start for many teams.

Linebackers: All-C-USA picks T.J. Slaughter and Ty Trahan need to step up as senior leaders. Slaughter, one of the hardest hitters in the league, led C-USA in tackles with 147 last season. Trahan finished among the league's top 10 tacklers despite a sprained knee that kept him out of two games. On the weakside, Roy Magee has enough speed to cover in the flat.

Secondary: Senior Terrance Parrish is a capable corner, though he has had trouble avoiding injury the past two years. Ditto for safety Leo Barnes, a standout when healthy. Raymond Walls, a receiver last year, was

moved to corner and looked like a natural during the spring. Daryon Brutley and Chad Williams are terrific athletes who will have roles at rover and free safety.

Special teams: Francis ranked among the nation's top kickoff return men last year before suffering a knee injury. Also back is punter Jamie Purser, who regained his starting job in '98 after recovering from a knee injury. Brant Hanna is the first choice for the kicking job; he must improve his consistency.

Schedule: The non-conference schedule features the usual trio of money games (trips to Nebraska, Texas



Be careful: Gideon (above) and Pinkston need to stay healthy. Only one other Southern Mississippi wideout has caught a pass in college.

A&M and Alabama). The conference slate features an opening Monday afternoon game against Tulane, which last year unseated Southern Mississippi from atop the league. The season finale at Louisville could be for the league title and a trip to the Liberty Bowl.

Coaching: Many have wondered about the loss of defensive coordinator John Thompson and the impact it will have. They shouldn't. Dave Wommack is not as intense a personality as Thompson, but he is a superb coach.

Outlook: The offensive line is the main concern, with quarterback a distant second. If the line cannot open running lanes for Nix or give Davis a chance to learn the ropes, the Eagles could be in for a long year. The defense is good enough to keep Southern Mississippi in just about every game, except perhaps Nebraska.

GOLDEN EAGLES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Sherrod Gideon	6-0	176	Sr.	*John Floyd	6-4	193	Fr.
T	*Jeremy Bridges	6-4	285	Fr.	*Jason Jimenez	6-7	250	Fr.
G	Shederick Blackmon	6-6	324	Sr.	*Dan Reber	6-5	254	Fr.
C	*Zeb Landers	6-3	265	Fr.	Dennis Evans	6-3	275	Jr.
G	Tre' Chambers	6-4	284	So.	Nathan Grace	6-5	300	Jr.
T	Brian Bell	6-5	285	Sr.	*Torrin Tucker	6-6	310	Fr.
TE	*Buck Micototto	6-4	250	Fr.	Orlando Dantzler	6-4	255	So.
WR	Dannye Fowler	5-11	175	So.	Josh Gulley	6-5	204	Sr.
WR	Todd Pinkston	6-2	168	Sr.	*LeRoy Handy	6-2	182	Fr.
QB	Cable Davis	6-3	225	Jr.	Jeff Kelly	6-2	204	So.
HB	Derrick Nix	6-1	223	So.	Dawayne Woods	5-9	191	So.

DEFENSE

E	Cedric Scott	6-5	255	Sr.	Deric Scott	6-3	258	Jr.
NT	DeQuincy Scott	6-2	270	Jr.	Gerald Mumford	6-3	255	Jr.
T	John Nix	6-2	278	Jr.	Daleroy Stewart	6-3	298	Jr.
E	Adalius Thomas	6-4	252	Sr.	Marvin Brown	6-1	220	Sr.
OLB	Ty Trahan	6-1	225	Sr.	Anthony Chapman	5-11	209	Jr.
MLB	T.J. Slaughter	6-2	238	Sr.	Royal Bell	6-0	232	Sr.
OLB	Roy Magee	6-2	212	So.	Zaid Houston	6-2	219	Jr.
CB	Raymond Walls	5-10	176	Jr.	Keon Moore	5-11	183	Jr.
SS	Leo Barnes	6-0	182	Jr.	Daryon Brutley	5-11	183	So.
FS	Chad Williams	5-11	191	So.	David Verdell	6-1	218	Jr.
CB	Terrance Parrish	5-11	190	Sr.	Byron Gill	5-10	177	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Brant Hanna	6-2	202	So.	P	Jamie Purser	6-0	192	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

2 Louisville

Site: Louisville
Coach: John L. Smith (7-5, 1 year; 76-44 overall, 10 years)
Offensive coordinator: Scott Linehan (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Chris Smeland (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: One-back
Defensive scheme: flex 4-3
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 12
Lettermen returning: 41
Stadium: Papa John's (grass, 42,000)
Last league title won: 1972 (Missouri Valley, tie)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 49th
1998 record: 7-5 (lost to Marshall in Motor City Bowl); Conference USA: 4-2 (3rd)

1998 RESULTS

Kentucky, L 68-34
 at Utah, L 45-22
 at Illinois, W 35-9
 Boston College, W 52-28
 Cincinnati, W 62-19
 at So. Mississippi, L 56-21
 at Tulane, L 28-22
 Memphis, W 35-32
 Western Kentucky, W 63-34
 at East Carolina, W 63-45
 Army, W 35-23
 Marshall, L 48-29

SCHEDULE

S4—at Kentucky
 S11—Tenn.-Chattanooga
 S18—Illinois
 S25—Oklahoma
 O2—Eastern Michigan
 O7—at Army
 O16—at Memphis
 O23—Houston
 O30—Ala.-Birmingham
 N6—at Cincinnati
 N20—So. Mississippi

NATIONAL RANK
43

Quarterbacks: All Chris Redman did last season was pass for more than 4,000 yards, something accomplished by only 13 I-A quarterbacks before him. He could stand to cut down on the interceptions (15), though eight came in two games.

Redman has stayed remarkably healthy, given the pounding he

has taken. The Cardinals have an ample alternative in junior Mike Watkins.

Running backs: LeRoy Collins was the beneficiary of Louisville's aerial show last season, but he opted to enter the NFL draft after one season of I-A play. Frank Moreau hopes to regain the starting job he lost to Collins. Moreau will face stiff challenges from former linebacker-safety Tony Stallings, redshirt freshman Henry Miller and junior college All-American Eric Lockhart.

Receivers: This is among the best groups in the nation. Arnold Jackson is a mean, lean scoring machine who can flat-out fly. Charles Sheffield, Lavell Boyd, Anthony Branch and Zek Parker all return with a year of experience. Ibn Green, Redman's favorite target since the eighth grade, has led the nation's I-A tight ends in receptions each of the past two seasons.

Offensive line: The big guys catch flak every time Redman is popped, but they had to be doing something right for the Cards to put up the numbers they did last year. Mark Grivna and Anthony Byrd return for a third year as the starting tackles. Joe O'Shaughnessy will man the strong guard slot. The coaches are pleased with the progress of redshirt freshman weak guard Aaron Dardzinski. Junior college transfer Jason Padget is penciled in at center.

Defensive line: Mike Gantous earned second-team all-league honors last year, and the coaches are keeping their fingers crossed that Derrick Kennedy finally turns potential into performance. With Cardinals coach John L. Smith demanding more speed on defense, Kennedy will move inside, leaving Matt Sexton at one end and converted fullback-linebacker Otis Floyd at the other. The Cards could get help in the middle from transfers Kevin Kos and Donovan Arp.

Linebackers: This may be the best group of linebackers at Louisville since the Tyrus McCloud era. Bud Herring and Rashad Harris both have better than average speed. Herring, who led the team in tackles (135) last season, is being moved to the middle. Harris could bloom into a big-time playmaker. It will be interesting to see if Xavier Burrell, last year's starting strong safety, has the coverage skills and speed to play outside.

Secondary: Antonio Roundtree, whose position is a

hybrid between safety and cornerback, is solid, while Rashad Holman could be a strong cornerback if the line can get pressure and not leave him exposed. Competition will be provided by junior college transfers Corey Wallace and Mike White, who give Smith the speed he covets in the secondary. Courtney Dinkins is back at free safety.

Special teams: Jon Hilbert, who is steady inside the 40-yard line, is back to do the kicking after petitioning the NCAA for a sixth season of eligibility because of injuries. The punting duties will go to a hometown



PAUL NUSELY/TSN

New position: After amassing 135 tackles as an outside linebacker last season, Herring is moving to an inside position this year.

boomer, true freshman Chris Sivori.

Schedule: Look for a shootout at Kentucky to open the season. Visiting Oklahoma is the only other non-league threat. The Cardinals play conference heavies Southern Mississippi and Houston at home.

Coaching: Smith changed offensive coordinators, hiring his old friend, Scott Linehan, who spent the previous three seasons as coordinator at Washington. The defensive staff has a tougher task, as Louisville ranked 110th in the nation in defense in '98.

Outlook: The offense is good enough to outscore just about anyone on the schedule. But will the defense be any better? Smith certainly thinks so. Even if it's not, the Cards will contend for the conference title. If it is, Louisville could be the team to beat.

CARDINALS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Arnold Jackson	5-8	160	Sr.	Anthony Branch	5-10	180	Jr.
T Anthony Byrd	6-5	290	Sr.	Rob Eble	6-6	260	So.
G Aaron Dardzinski	6-0	270	Fr.	Ryan Lundgard	6-4	270	So.
C Jason Padget	6-4	285	Jr.	*Antoine Sims	6-3	285	Fr.
G Joe O'Shaughnessy	6-1	280	Jr.	*Ariel Rodriguez	6-5	315	Fr.
T Mark Grivna	6-10	330	Sr.	Geoff McBarnette	6-4	290	Sr.
TE Ibn Green	6-2	225	Sr.	*Erin Smith	6-4	220	Fr.
WR Zek Parker	5-10	190	Jr.	Allen Carroll	5-10	165	Jr.
WR Lavell Boyd	6-3	210	Sr.	Charles Sheffield	6-1	190	Sr.
QB Chris Redman	6-3	215	Sr.	Mike Watkins	6-4	210	Jr.
RB Frank Moreau	6-1	220	Sr.	Tony Stallings	5-11	205	So.

DEFENSE

E Matt Sexton	6-2	235	Jr.	*Michael Josiah	6-3	225	Fr.
T Donovan Arp	6-3	275	Jr.	Derrick Kennedy	6-3	280	Sr.
T Mike Gantous	6-2	300	Sr.	Reggie Hargrove	6-3	270	Sr.
E Otis Floyd	6-1	220	Sr.	*Devon Thomas	6-2	235	Fr.
LB Bud Herring	6-3	220	Jr.	Xavier Burrell	6-1	210	Jr.
LB Rashad Harris	6-2	220	Jr.	Chip Mattingly	6-2	225	So.
LB Tony Stallings	5-11	205	So.	*Jeremy Collins	6-1	245	Fr.
CB Antonio Roundtree	5-7	180	Jr.	*Michael Brown	5-11	200	Fr.
SS Corey Wallace	5-11	190	Jr.	Dewayne Taylor	5-11	200	Jr.
FS Courtney Dinkins	6-0	200	Sr.	*Jeremy Porter	6-2	200	Fr.
CB Rashad Holman	5-11	185	Jr.	Zach Butler	5-9	180	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Jon Hilbert	6-2	225	Sr.	P Chris Sivori	6-0	185	Fr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

3 Houston

Site: Houston
Coach: Kim Helton (17-49-1, 6 years)
Offensive coordinator: Les Koenning Jr. (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Dick Bumpas (1st season)
Offensive scheme: multiple pro-set
Defensive scheme: 4-2 front
Starters lost: 6
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 58
Stadium: Robertson (grass, 33,000)
Last league title won: 1996 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 76th
1998 record: 3-8; Conference USA: 2-4 (tie 5th)

1998 RESULTS

at California, L 14-10
 Minnesota, L 14-7
 UCLA, L 42-24
 at Tennessee, L 42-7
 Memphis, W 35-14
 Army, L 38-28
 at North Texas, W 31-9
 at East Carolina, W 34-31
 So. Mississippi, L 21-15
 at Cincinnati, L 44-43
 at Tulane, L 48-20

SCHEDULE

S4—Rice
 S11—at Alabama*
 S18—SW Louisiana
 S25—at Ala.-Birmingham
 O9—Cincinnati
 O16—at North Carolina
 O23—at Louisville
 O30—East Carolina
 N6—Tulane
 N13—at Louisiana State
 N20—at Army
 *at Birmingham

NATIONAL RANK
55

Quarterbacks: Junior Jason McKinley, a starter since 1997, has displayed a good arm and decent accuracy. Now he must improve his decision-making after an 18 touchdowns-13 interceptions season. New offensive coordinator Les Koenning Jr. is a disciple of the one-back set, which will give McKinley

another receiver in the Cougars' basic set. It also means that he must pick up new reads and memorize a new playbook.

Running backs: Ketric Sanford returns for a final run after gaining 1,054 yards and scoring six TDs last season. Sanford is one of the league's premier backs when healthy, but he has been unable to avoid injury during his career. The Cougars have ample replacements. Mike Green is a 251-pound basher who can run, and Joffrey Reynolds was a highly touted prospect.

Receivers: Jerrian James and Orlando Iglesias are among the best in a league of outstanding receivers. James made 80 catches for 931 yards and five TDs last season. Iglesias, a freshman standout in 1997, had 63 catches for 772 yards and a team-high eight TDs last year. The only question is receiving average; James' 11.6 yards a catch ranked lowest among the league's top 10 receivers, and Iglesias averaged 12.3 yards. Tight end Scott Regimbald (21 catches) and Sanford (22) also help the passing game.

Offensive line: Four starters return, including stand-out tackle Josh Lovelady. Also back are guard Justin Stille, center Jeff Medford and guard Gregory Brown. Tackle Jabari Beauford steps in as a starter after getting plenty of playing time as a reserve last season.

Defensive line: Houston has a new coordinator for the third time in four seasons, with Dick Bumpas arriving from Navy with a 4-2-5 scheme that features a "weak" safety. Up front, only tackle Adriano Belli returns as a starter. Tackle Kevin Payne and junior college transfer Grover Thompson should make an impact. Payne was considered good enough to push third-leading tackler Mike DeRouselle to a backup role. Thompson was penciled in to start at defensive end the day he signed.

Linebackers: This is a deep unit, with Wayne Rogers (69 stops) and Jeremy Maxon (55) both returning. Expect their tackle totals to rise dramatically in the new scheme.

Secondary: Micah Malone, an outside linebacker/end the past three seasons, becomes the strong safety. Malone will remain a big factor in run support, and he has the quickness to take on tight ends and gum up the middle zone. Weak safety Mike James, the Cougars' leading tackler last season (72

stops), is an all-conference candidate. William Fields and Emile White are good players who can't seem to stay healthy.

Special teams: Houston hopes that junior Jeff Patterson can punt better than the 36.5-yard average the Cougars had last season. The kicking job is up for grabs, with Zack Waddell hoping to follow in brother Mike's footsteps. Sanford can be a dazzling kick return man.

Schedule: The Cougars play at Alabama, North Carolina and Louisiana State. They don't have to play



ROBERT SEALE/TSN

Fragile: Sanford has been plagued by injuries, although he did play enough last season to rush for more than 1,000 yards.

Southern Mississippi or Memphis, and get key conference games with East Carolina and Tulane at home. The trip to Army on November 20 could be a key game in the conference race.

Coaching: The revolving door continued in the off-season at Houston. Two new coordinators and two other assistants were hired. When you've posted consecutive 3-8 records, what's a guy like coach Kim Helton to do? Helton can ill afford another poor season, or the door may be revolving a lot faster next off-season.

Outlook: The Cougars ought to be able to move the ball, and the defense last season showed it could stop people before injuries took a toll. This team should contend for the C-USA title. If it doesn't, Helton likely will play with his job.

COUGARS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Orlando Iglesias	6-2	212	Jr.	*Brian Robinson	6-3	193	Fr.
T	Josh Lovelady	6-3	327	Jr.	Drew Lowery	6-5	277	So.
G	Gregory Brown	6-1	306	Sr.	Patrick Boatner	6-1	300	So.
C	Jeff Medford	6-4	290	Sr.	Nathan Woody	6-3	278	Jr.
G	Justin Stille	6-4	304	Sr.	*Chris Wheeler	6-1	306	Fr.
T	Jabari Beauford	6-4	302	So.	Ryan Hendrickson	6-4	322	Jr.
TE	Scott Regimbald	6-3	236	Sr.	Travis Finch	6-2	220	Jr.
WR	Jerrian James	6-0	185	Sr.	Keykova Bell	5-10	180	So.
QB	Jason McKinley	6-3	217	Jr.	Tyson Helton	6-2	191	Sr.
TB	Ketric Sanford	5-8	202	Sr.	Mike Green	5-11	251	Sr.
FB	Tommie Baldwin	5-10	227	So.	Kairon Hill	5-9	234	So.

DEFENSE

E	Grover Thompson	6-4	288	Jr.	T.J. Light	6-1	268	Sr.
T	Kevin Payne	6-4	288	So.	Mike DeRouselle	6-3	298	Sr.
T	Adriano Belli	6-5	278	Sr.	Mike Knepper	6-2	290	Sr.
E	Ahmad Charles	6-0	257	Sr.	Jonathan Pritchett	6-3	238	So.
OLB	Wayne Rogers	6-1	238	Jr.	Sam Hairston	6-1	241	Jr.
MLB	Jeremy Maxon	6-3	241	Sr.	Arthur Gissendanner	6-1	216	So.
CB	William Fields	5-7	175	Sr.	*Ray Woods	6-1	186	Fr.
SS	Micah Malone	6-2	224	Sr.	Raul Williamson	5-9	187	Jr.
WS	Mike James	6-0	214	Sr.	Greg Holte	5-10	185	So.
FS	Kenny Hill	5-8	196	Sr.	David Williams	5-9	169	Jr.
CB	Emile White	6-0	212	Jr.	Jason Parker	5-9	173	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Zack Waddell	5-10	177	Fr.	P	Jeff Patterson	6-1	191	Jr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

4 East Carolina

Site: Greenville, N.C.
Coach: Steve Logan (42-37, 7 years)
Offensive coordinator: Doug Martin (4th season)
Defensive coordinator: Tim Rose (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro-set
Defensive scheme: 3-4
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 21
Lettermen returning: 45
Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen (grass, 47,000)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1995
1998 TSN rank: 59th
1998 record: 6-5;
Conference USA: 3-3 (4th)

1998 RESULTS

at Virginia Tech, L 38-3
 Chattanooga, W 31-0
 at Ohio, W 21-14
 Army, W 30-25
 Ala.-Birmingham, W 26-7
 Alabama, L 23-22
 at So. Mississippi, L 41-7
 Houston, L 34-31
 at Cincinnati, W 24-21
 Louisville, L 63-45
 at Memphis, W 34-31

SCHEDULE

S4—West Virginia*
 S11—Duke
 S18—at South Carolina
 S25—Miami, Fla.
 O2—at Army
 O9—Southern Mississippi
 O23—Tulane
 O30—at Houston
 N6—at Ala.-Birmingham
 N13—Cincinnati
 N20—North Carolina State
 *at Charlotte, N.C.

NATIONAL
RANK
59

Quarterbacks: Coach Steve Logan believes David Garrard will be an outstanding quarterback. Big and athletic, Garrard set a school record for completion percentage (61.6) and another mark with 414 passing yards in one game. Also available is Bobby Weaver, who can handle an option attack and is a

good passer. Weaver could get some work at H-back.
Running backs: The Pirates' two-headed attack is Jamie Wilson and Leonard Henry. They combined for 1,281 yards and eight rushing TDs last season behind a line that featured just one senior. Look for those numbers to improve. Wilson gives Garrard another target. Wilson ranked third on the team with 32 catches for 239 yards and two touchdowns.

Receivers: Troy Smith is gone. LaMont Chappell, who averaged 16.2 yards a catch, is back. After Chappell, the leading receivers are a running back, Wilson, and an H-back, Marcellus Harris. Sophomore Arnie Powell and juniors Delayo Dodd and Keith Stokes have to step up.

Offensive line: A sore point last season, this unit is expected to be improved. How much depends on how quickly junior center Anthony Nobles and sophomore guard Aaron Walker mature, and whether senior Derrick Gamble can handle left tackle in his first season as a starter. The right side is solid with guard Sherwin Lacewell and tackle Samein Jones.

Defensive line: New coordinator Tim Rose, who has worked at Miami of Ohio, Cincinnati, Memphis, Minnesota and Boston College, is installing a stunting, blitzing 3-4 scheme. The Pirates lost standouts Rod Coleman and Travis Darden and starter Brian Johnson. Norris McCleary, who had 57 tackles and was second on the team with 5½ sacks, is back.

Linebackers: East Carolina has two of the league's best linebackers in senior Jeff Kerr and sophomore Pernell Griffin. Both can range sideline to sideline, and they hit a ton. Kerr was fifth in the league in tackles with 115 as a junior despite missing three games because of injuries. Though he did not begin last season as a starter, Griffin played in all 11 games and made 99 tackles. Bernard Williams and Marc Yellock, who also act a bit like ends in the new scheme, will man the outside posts.

Secondary: Both cornerbacks are back. Forrest Foster, who had four interceptions and 13 pass breakups last season, is a candidate for all-Conference USA honors. Kevin Monroe also had four interceptions. Safeties Chris Satterfield and Travis Mazyck, who were backups, have to step up.

Special teams: This unit directly contributed to at

least three defeats last season, very uncharacteristic for a Logan-coached team. Punter Andrew Bayes is one of the league's best, and he could take over the kicking duties if freshman Bryce Harrington can't handle the job. Harris averaged 11.9 yards on punt returns (third in the league) last year, and Chappell ranked third on kickoff returns (22.9-yard average). Look for Stokes, a mid-semester junior college transfer with breakaway speed, to upgrade the return game.

Schedule: The Pirates have a difficult non-conference slate—West Virginia, South Carolina, Miami, Fla.,



Let's make it three: Kerr has overcome numerous injuries during his college career to earn two all-league citations at linebacker.

and North Carolina State. The league schedule slackens some, with Southern Mississippi, Tulane and Cincinnati coming to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. If the Pirates are to contend, they must take care of business in key games at Army and Houston, and against Southern Mississippi at home. East Carolina caught a break with Louisville rotating off the schedule.

Coaching: Rose brings an aggressive, often bewildering attack defense. Dave Huxtable is the new defensive line coach. Former East Carolina player Terry Tilghman was hired to coach tight ends. Logan, who is adept at developing quarterbacks, made changes designed to get the defense back on track.

Outlook: If Garrard continues to improve and the young receiving corps develops, the Pirates could be a dark-horse contender for the conference title.

PIRATES DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Arnie Powell	6-4	215	So.	Delayo Dodd	6-4	220	Jr.
T	Derrick Gamble	6-4	285	Sr.	*Phoenix Evans	6-5	295	Fr.
G	Aaron Walker	6-3	285	So.	Chris Nelson	6-4	290	So.
C	Anthony Nobles	6-6	325	Jr.	Rod Emery	6-1	265	Jr.
G	Sherwin Lacewell	6-2	290	Jr.	*Senter Currin	6-5	285	Fr.
T	Samein Jones	6-3	290	Jr.	Bobby Parker	6-3	280	Jr.
TE	Corey Floyd	6-2	245	So.	Rashan Burns	6-4	240	Jr.
WR	LaMont Chappell	6-1	180	Sr.	Aaron Harris	6-2	180	So.
QB	David Garrard	6-3	240	So.	Bobby Weaver	6-0	190	Jr.
RB	Marcellus Harris	5-10	180	Jr.	Keith Stokes	5-8	180	Jr.
FB	Jamie Wilson	6-1	205	Jr.	Leonard Henry	6-1	200	So.

DEFENSE

T	Tomha McMillan	6-3	255	Sr.	Devone Claybrooks	6-3	275	Jr.
NG	Kwabena Green	6-1	255	Sr.	Mbayo Ahmadu	6-1	270	Jr.
T	Norris McCleary	6-4	295	Sr.	Chris Howell	6-3	280	Jr.
OLB	Marc Yellock	6-4	230	Jr.	*Antwane Yelverton	6-0	200	Fr.
ILB	Jeff Kerr	6-4	235	Sr.	Eric Reyes	6-2	235	Jr.
ILB	Pernell Griffin	6-3	240	So.	Clenton Cochran	6-2	235	Jr.
OLB	Kevin Ward	6-2	215	So.	Bernard Williams	6-4	240	So.
CB	Forrest Foster	5-10	180	Sr.	*Erik Hines	5-11	180	Fr.
SS	Chris Satterfield	5-11	195	Jr.	Antwaun Cook	5-11	175	Jr.
FS	Travis Mazyck	6-2	185	So.	*Antwan Adams	5-11	175	Fr.
CB	Kevin Monroe	6-1	185	Sr.	Charlie Robinson	6-0	180	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Andrew Bayes	6-3	200	Sr.	P Andrew Bayes	6-3	200	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

5 Army

Site: West Point, N.Y.
Coach: Bob Sutton (41-47-1, 8 years)
Offensive coordinator: Ed Warinner (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Denny Doornbos (9th season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple spread option
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 13
Lettermen lost: 33
Lettermen returning: 36
Stadium: Michie (turf, 39,929)
Last league title won: none
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 85th
1998 record: 3-8; Conference USA: 2-4 (tie 5th)

1998 RESULTS

Miami, Ohio, L 14-13
 Cincinnati, W 37-20
 at Rutgers, L 27-15
 at East Carolina, L 30-25
 at Houston, W 38-28
 So. Mississippi, L 37-13
 at Notre Dame, L 20-17
 Air Force, L 35-7
 Tulane, L 49-35
 at Louisville, L 35-23
 at Navy, W 34-30

SCHEDULE

S11—Wake Forest
 S18—at Tulane
 S25—Ball State
 O2—East Carolina
 O7—Louisville
 O16—at So. Mississippi
 O23—New Mexico State
 N6—at Air Force
 N13—at Memphis
 N20—Houston
 D4—Navy*
 *at Philadelphia

NATIONAL
RANK
65

Quarterbacks: Technically, Joe Gerena was the backup quarterback last season. In reality, he was a starter de facto, starting twice when Johnny Goff was sidelined and playing a prominent role in three other games. Gerena may have just one year of varsity experience, but he could be the next Ronnie

McAda—a savvy triggerman capable of burning defenses that plant nine folks in the box. Keep an eye on athletic, speedy sophomore Chad Jenkins.

Running backs: The Cadets have finished no lower than seventh in the nation in rushing since coach Bob Sutton installed the option eight years ago. Don't expect that to change, even though the faces will. The Cadets lost Ty Amey and Bobby Williams, but Michael Wallace averaged 4.6 yards a carry as Amey's backup, and Alton McCallum has better-than-fullback speed. At halfback, John Johnson could pick up another 70 carries or so with Williams gone; he averaged 4.4 yards a carry last year.

Receivers: Grady Jett caught 14 passes last season, leading the Cadets in receptions. With Gerena at the helm for a whole season, the speedy Jett (12.9 yards a catch) and Gary Williams (14.5) could become bigger factors and threats. Shaun Castillo moves up the chart at tight end, which is primarily a blocking position. Castillo does have decent hands.

Offensive line: Guard Mark Prehar is the lone returning starter. The most intriguing move has defensive lineman Mike Larkin moving to left tackle, which was left vacant by the departure of all-Conference USA pick Neil Ravitz. While the option places less of a premium on pure size, only four of Army's top 10 linemen weigh more than 270 pounds. Center Brandon Calhoun, the linchpin of the starting unit, weighs just 237 pounds.

Defensive line: Army could field one of its best front walls in years. Nose tackle Scott Kozak could play for a number of C-USA teams. David Hageman is moving from end to the inside, joining Kozak to plug the middle. Junior Ron Sporer, who had 40 tackles last season, may be the Cadets' impact player, assuming he has recovered from shoulder surgery.

Linebackers: Army dumped its "knight," a roaming linebacker/safety/end position, and switched to a scheme that includes a middle linebacker and two outside men. That means that Adisa King, Lyle Weaver and Nate Hunterton will be on the field at the same time. Weaver is the unit's big hitter—118 tackles last year. Hunterton stepped in for the injured King and ranked third on the team in stops. King made 39 tackles.

Defensive backs: This was where Army paid for its lack of speed last season. Opponents completed 57.2

percent of their passes and averaged 242.7 passing yards a game. Safety Derick McNally is one of the hardest hitters on the team. Starting corner Tony Coaxum broke up 10 passes last season and has enough speed to stay with most receivers. Look for converted halfback Brian Zickefoose to play free safety.

Special teams: The best that can be said for the Cadets' kicking game is that they welcome back the best punter in school history; Graham White averaged a school-record 44.7 yards last year. Matt Parker, the kickoff man two years ago, will assume the kicking



The triggerman: Gerena hasn't played a lot, but the coaches like what they have seen. He could be a perfect fit for the option offense.

chores. The Cadets need to find a return man to replace Rod Richardson.

Schedule: The non-conference slate is reasonable—Wake Forest, Ball State, New Mexico State. The conference slate isn't so bad, either—East Carolina, Louisville and Houston play at the Academy. The Cadets must go to Tulane and Southern Mississippi.

Coaching: Sutton's staff is solid, but another 3-8 season is not likely to play well on the Hudson, especially with a new athletic director coming on board when Al Vanderbush retires in June.

Outlook: One can assume that the offense will be its methodical, disciplined self, and the defense could be as good as the Cadets have had in a while. Still, Army is not ready to compete with C-USA's elite, especially those with superior speed.

CADETS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Grady Jett	5-11	183	Sr.	Gary Williams	5-11	193	Sr.
T	Mike Larkin	6-4	258	Jr.	Jared Churchill	6-1	268	So.
G	Josh Gonzalez	6-1	291	Jr.	Brian Demcher	6-1	290	Sr.
C	Brandon Calhoun	6-1	237	Jr.	Nolan Gordon	6-2	263	So.
G	Mark Prehar	6-2	266	Sr.	Dustin Plumadore	6-1	284	So.
T	Randy Overstreet	6-2	292	Sr.	Paul Henderson	6-3	266	So.
TE	Shaun Castillo	6-1	231	Sr.	Clint Dodson	6-3	230	So.
QB	Joe Gerena	6-0	208	Jr.	Chad Jenkins	5-11	180	So.
HB	John Johnson	5-9	196	Sr.	Brandon Rooney	5-8	192	Sr.
HB	Reno Ferri	5-9	211	Sr.	Vaughn Carpenter	5-7	175	Sr.
FB	Michael Wallace	5-11	232	Jr.	Alton McCallum	6-0	242	So.

DEFENSE

E	Zach Hurst	6-3	239	Jr.	Brandon Perdue	6-2	220	So.
T	David Hageman	6-2	252	Sr.	John Kelley	6-2	263	So.
NT	Scott Kozak	6-2	270	Sr.	Randy Mitchell	5-9	229	Jr.
E	Ron Sporer	6-1	242	Jr.	Brian King	6-1	242	Sr.
OLB	Lyle Weaver	5-11	229	Jr.	Tom Duggan	6-0	219	Sr.
MLB	Nate Hunterton	6-0	222	Sr.	Jesse Waters	6-0	222	Jr.
OLB	Adisa King	6-3	218	Sr.	Brandon Kelley	6-0	223	Sr.
CB	Brent Dial	6-0	183	So.	Andrew Burke	5-6	167	Jr.
SS	Derick McNally	6-2	193	Jr.	Derrick Goodwin	5-11	203	Jr.
FS	Clay Daniels	5-11	197	Sr.	Brian Zickefoose	5-10	202	So.
CB	Tony Coaxum	5-10	180	Sr.	Imani Dupree	6-0	174	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Matt Parker	6-0	172	Sr.	P	Graham White	5-10	179	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

6 Tulane

Site: New Orleans
Coach: Chris Scelfo (1-0, 1 year; 122-47 overall, 13 years)
Offensive coordinator: Chris Scelfo (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Pete McGinnis (1st season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: multiple
Starters lost: 15
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 39
Stadium: Superdome (turf, 69,767)
Last league title won: 1998
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 8th
1998 record: 12-0 (beat Brigham Young in Liberty Bowl); Conference USA: 6-0 (1st)

1998 RESULTS

at Cincinnati, W 52-34
 at So. Methodist, W 31-21
 Navy, W 42-24
 So. Mississippi, W 21-7
 Louisville, W 28-22
 at Rutgers, W 52-24
 SW Louisiana, W 72-20
 at Memphis, W 41-31
 at Army, W 49-35
 Houston, W 48-20
 Louisiana Tech, W 63-30
 Brigham Young, W 41-27

SCHEDULE

S6—at So. Mississippi
 S11—Southern Methodist
 S18—Army
 O2—at Syracuse
 O9—at Mississippi
 O16—SW Louisiana
 O23—at East Carolina
 O30—Memphis
 N6—at Houston
 N13—at Navy
 N20—Ala.-Birmingham

NATIONAL RANK
88

Quarterbacks: Chris Scelfo, hired from Georgia to replace Tommy Bowden, will keep some of the one-back, three-receiver schemes that Shaun King operated with such deadly effect, but Tulane will use more varied sets. The new quarterback will be Patrick Ramsey, a true pocket passer who had arm problems last year, or Derrick Joseph, a hometown prep star who is better at operating an option/veer attack. Don't be surprised if both are on the field at the same time.

Running backs: After sharing the job the past two seasons with Jamaican Darte, Toney Converse has center stage. Though undersized, Converse is hard to get a solid lick on. He led the Wave and was fifth in C-USA in rushing with 871 yards and seven TDs last season. His 5.6 yards a carry is tops among the conference's returning starters.

Receivers: P.J. Franklin is gone. JaJuan Dawson returns after averaging 60 receptions, 893 yards and 11 TDs the past two years. A bevy of swift receivers joins Dawson, including Zander Robinson, Kerwin Cook and Adrian Burnette. Franklin and Dawson caught the bulk of the passes the past two seasons; it's time for the younger crowd to step up.

Offensive line: This is the strength of the offense, though the line will have to adjust to a new scheme. Left tackle Bernard Robertson is one of the best in the league. In some circles, guard Corey Sewell was a freshman All-American pick at right tackle last season. Also returning as starters are guard Jerry Godfrey and center Kapua Conley. Charles Caldwell, a starter entering last season before being declared academically ineligible, will replace Sewell at right tackle.

Defensive line: The front four will be manned by new faces, though two played last year as backups. Tackle Mitch Mouton, who had 27 tackles last season, is the most experienced of the quartet.

Linebackers: Brett Timmons is gone. Jerry Phillips and Sedric Clemons return. Phillips, whose 104 tackles ranked 10th in the conference last year, will move to the middle. Clemons, who started 10 games in the middle, is moving outside. Phillips weighs about 15 pounds more, and Clemons is the quicker of the two. David Dorsey will play the other outside spot.

Secondary: Three of four starters are gone, including standout corners Michael Jordan and Alphonso Roundtree, but Tulane will be fine. Hard-hitting nickelback Tim Carter will take Jordan's spot. Corey Jones and Meldon Barnes are the front-runners at the safeties, despite the presence of Sam Knight, who started 10 games at free safety last season.

Special teams: The league's best kicker (Brad

Palazzo) and punter (Brad Hill) must be replaced. Sophomore Casey Roussel might handle both roles. The return game could be special, though the Green Wave ranked second-to-last in kickoff returns (19.1 yards) in the league last year and was middle of the pack on punt returns. John Wilson likely will return punts and kicks.

Schedule: There will be a lot less talk this fall about cushy scheduling. Instead of Rutgers and Louisiana Tech, the Green Wave hit the road for games at Syracuse and Mississippi. The conference schedule is



Mighty mite: At 5-8, 168 pounds, Converse certainly isn't big—but his 5.6 yards-per-carry average last season spoke volumes.

tough enough with Houston, East Carolina and Southern Mississippi. At least Louisville isn't on the schedule.

Coaching: Scelfo has a tough act to follow. Bowden was popular, charismatic and unbeaten last season. But despite the success, there were cracks in the Green Wave armor. The defense has been less than stellar, and it will be up to new coordinator Peter McGinnis to patch the holes or continue the bend-but-don't-break philosophy of the previous regime.

Outlook: The offense is going to score, but not as much as last year's attack that averaged 45.4 points. The defense will not be as bad as most would guess for a squad that lost eight starters, but it won't dominate. Life for the Green Wave is about to get a lot harder in the Big Easy.

GREEN WAVE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR JaJuan Dawson	6-1	201	Sr.	Zander Robinson	5-9	173	So.
T Bernard Robertson	6-4	285	Jr.	*Derrick Bugg	6-3	285	Fr.
G Jerry Godfrey	6-3	290	Sr.	Tony Cunningham	5-11	251	Jr.
C Kapua Conley	6-2	290	Sr.	Torie Taulloi	6-0	256	So.
G Corey Sewell	6-2	260	So.	Bryson Westbrook	6-2	267	Jr.
T Charles Caldwell	6-3	285	So.	Chrys Bullock	6-3	313	So.
TE Mike Turner	6-2	248	Sr.	Joseph Akin	6-2	238	So.
WR Adrian Burnette	6-10	184	Jr.	Terrell Harris	5-11	185	So.
WR Kerwin Cook	6-0	174	Jr.	Adrian Burnette	5-10	184	Jr.
QB Patrick Ramsey	6-3	226	So.	*Derrick Joseph	5-11	187	Fr.
TB Toney Converse	5-8	168	Jr.	John Wilson	5-5	166	Jr.

DEFENSE

E *Kenan Blackmon	6-5	236	Fr.	Glenn Lemoine	6-4	241	So.
T Mitch Mouton	6-4	266	Jr.	*Percy Branon	6-1	272	Fr.
T *Roxie Shelvin	6-2	263	Fr.	Matthew Glapion	6-5	205	Jr.
E Ryan Brewer	6-4	248	So.	Patrick Charles	6-0	229	So.
OLB Sedric Clemons	5-10	218	Sr.	*David Dunlap	6-4	202	Fr.
MLB Jerry Phillips	5-11	232	Jr.	*Allen Davis	6-2	222	Fr.
OLB David Dorsey	6-1	212	So.	Delando Davis	6-2	195	So.
CB Tim Carter	6-0	183	Jr.	Kendall Francis	5-11	190	Sr.
SS Sam Knight	5-11	186	Jr.	Kevin Dukes	5-11	205	Sr.
FS Meldon Barnes	5-11	190	So.	Corey Jones	5-11	198	Jr.
CB Ky Joseph	5-9	167	Jr.	Jamal Jones	5-11	177	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Casey Roussel	6-0	223	So.	P Casey Roussel	6-0	223	So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

7 Cincinnati

Site: Cincinnati
Coach: Rick Minter (24-31-1, 5 years)
Offensive coordinator: Jimbo Fisher (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Rick Smith (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro-set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 16
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 40
Stadium: Nippert (turf, 35,000)
Last league title won: 1964 (Missouri Valley)
Last bowl appearance: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 98th
1998 record: 2-9; Conference USA: 1-5 (tie 7th)

1998 RESULTS

Tulane, L 52-34
 Miami, Fla., L 38-12
 at Army, L 37-20
 Indiana, L 48-14
 at Louisville, L 62-19
 at Syracuse, L 63-21
 at Memphis, L 41-23
 Miami, Ohio, L 41-0
 East Carolina, L 24-21
 Houston, W 44-43
 at Arkansas State, W 51-7

SCHEDULE

S4—Kent
 S11—Troy State
 S18—Wisconsin
 S25—at Ohio State
 O9—at Houston
 O16—Ala.-Birmingham
 O23—at So. Mississippi
 O30—at Miami, Ohio
 N6—Louisville
 N13—at East Carolina
 N20—Memphis

NATIONAL RANK
90

Quarterbacks: Deontey Kenner won't be looking over his shoulder this season, which should allow him to do a better job of scanning the field. While sharing time with Chad Plummer last season, Kenner became the first underclassman in Cincinnati history to pass for more than 2,000 yards. He has

the ability to upgrade a passing game that often has bordered on the abysmal in recent years.

Running backs: DeMarco McCleskey was suspended in the spring following his arrest. If he doesn't return, Cincinnati will be in trouble. He was fumble-prone early last season; otherwise he might have been a candidate for Conference USA freshman of the year honors. The 5-11, 214-pounder is the type of big back that coach Rick Minter loves for his power running game. With McCleskey out, Robert Cooper is slated to be the featured back. Sophomore Nathan Wize is a receiving threat.

Receivers: Plummer, the former quarterback, moved to receiver and caught a team-high 61 passes last season. He's gone, as is Cornelius Bonner, who combined with Plummer to account for more than half of Cincinnati's reception total and 60 percent of the receiving yards. The best of the returnees include two-year starter Jason Collins-Baker and converted tight end Tony Smikle. Sophomore Chris Archie and red-shirt freshmen Tye Keith and Jon Olinger must step forward.

Offensive line: Three starters are gone, but injuries gave a number of youngsters an opportunity to get their feet wet last season. Two sophomores, Andy Weinheimer and Kirt Doolin, will take over at tackle. Another sophomore, Ted Forrest, will play left guard. Doug Rosfeld may be the best center in the league. Ken Biggs has made 33 straight starts at guard.

Defensive line: Cincinnati had one of the nation's worst defenses last season, and nine starters are gone. The big boost up front may come from the junior college ranks. Tackle Mario Monds and ends Greg Lee and Kirk Thompson are being counted on to step in right away. The best of the returning linemen are ends Paul Stephens and tackles Dante Elliott and Ben Piening.

Linebackers: Converted safety DeJuan Gossett was productive last season at outside linebacker with 78 tackles. With new coordinator Rick Smith junking the "46" defense, Gossett could become a big-play man. For the 4-3 to work, the Bearcats need a middle man. Eddie Johnson and Kwesi Daniels may not have the speed, but junior college transfers Clarence Lindsey and Aaron Guzman might. The best of the bunch may be Antwan Peek, a former prep defensive back who saw time at end last season.

Defensive backs: Safety Tinker Keck returns from a knee injury that ended his '98 season after four games. If Danny Adams continues to improve, Cincinnati could have one of the league's better cover men. The rest of the jobs are up for grabs. Safeties Bobby Fuller, Freddy Smith and Aaron Butler are the best of the returnees. Five junior college transfers, including Antonio Davis, afford more options.

Special teams: Reconstructed knee or not, Keck will be the return man on punts, where he starred in 1997. Cooper and Keith will return kicks. Sophomore



Keck is key: Perhaps no player is more pivotal to the Bearcats than Keck, who missed all but four games last year because of a knee injury.

Adam Wulfeck averaged 39.7 yards and placed 12 of his 40 punts inside the 20-yard line last year. Kicker Jonathon Ruffin is new to the program.

Schedule: Home games with Kent and Troy State offer breathers in an otherwise tough non-conference slate. Tulane is replaced by Alabama-Birmingham on the conference schedule, a break for the Bearcats.

Coaching: Both coordinators are new. Former Auburn quarterbacks coach Jimbo Fisher is in charge of the offense, and Smith, most recently at Tulane, is the new man on defense. Also new are Keith Willis (defensive line) and Mike Tomlin (secondary).

Outlook: With questions marks everywhere, it's hard to expect much more from Cincinnati than a second consecutive finish near the bottom of the conference standings.

BEARCATS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Tim Walker	5-11 181 So.	Chris Archie	6-4 209 So.
T Andy Weinheimer	6-4 298 So.	Mike Love	6-4 295 Jr.
G Ted Forrest	6-3 313 So.	Jason Lisek	6-4 284 Jr.
C Doug Rosfeld	6-4 281 Jr.	Dave Catanzaro	6-1 268 So.
G Ken Biggs	6-5 296 Sr.	DeWayne Johnston	6-1 284 So.
T Kirt Doolin	6-4 314 So.	Josh Gardner	6-4 274 Fr.
TE Ashley Hunt	6-5 242 Jr.	Bryan Davis	6-3 237 Jr.
WR Jason Collins-Baker	5-11 190 Jr.	Tony Smikle	6-2 234 Jr.
QB Deontey Kenner	6-2 202 Jr.	David Bertucci	6-1 223 Sr.
RB Robert Cooper	5-11 205 Sr.	Nathan Wize	5-6 192 So.
FB Lloyd Garden	5-11 235 So.	Jasen Isom	6-0 240 Sr.

DEFENSE

E Paul Stephens	6-6 246 So.	Kirk Thompson	6-1 256 So.
T Dante Elliott	6-3 251 So.	Dan Wortman	6-2 264 So.
T Ben Piening	6-5 251 So.	*DeMarcus Billings	6-0 249 Fr.
E Joe Hamilton	6-2 244 So.	David Vitovitz	6-1 250 Sr.
OLB Troy Evans	6-2 236 Jr.	Antwan Peek	6-2 222 So.
MLB Eddie Johnson	5-11 233 Jr.	Kwesi Daniels	5-11 222 Sr.
OLB DeJuan Gossett	5-11 200 Jr.	Lewis Carter	6-2 210 So.
CB Jeff Burrow	5-8 176 Sr.	LaVar Glover	5-10 173 Jr.
SS Bobby Fuller	5-10 191 Sr.	Freddy Smith	6-0 192 Jr.
FS Tinker Keck	6-1 195 Sr.	Carlton Sykes	6-1 214 Sr.
CB Danny Adams	5-10 185 So.	*Ivan Fields	5-11 178 Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Joe Judge	5-11 187 Sr.	P Adam Wulfeck	6-0 217 So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

8 Memphis

Site: Memphis
Coach: Rip Scherer (13-31, 4 years; 42-50 overall, 8 years)
Offensive coordinators: Rusty Burns (2nd season) and Mac McWhorter (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: John Thompson (1st season)
Offensive scheme: multiple option
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 12
Lettermen returning: 42
Stadium: Liberty Bowl (grass, 62,380)
Last league title won: 1971 (Missouri Valley)
Last bowl appearance: 1971
1998 TSN rank: 91st
1998 record: 2-9; Conference USA: 1-5 (tie 7th)

1998 RESULTS

at Mississippi, L 30-10
 Mississippi State, L 14-6
 at Minnesota, L 41-14
 at Houston, L 35-14
 Arkansas, L 23-9
 Cincinnati, W 41-24
 at Louisville, L 35-32
 Arkansas State, W 35-19
 Tulane, L 41-31
 at So. Mississippi, L 45-3
 East Carolina, L 34-31

SCHEDULE

S4—Mississippi
 S11—at Mississippi State
 S18—Arkansas State
 S25—at Tennessee
 O2—Missouri
 O9—at Ala.-Birmingham
 O16—Louisville
 O30—at Tulane
 N6—Southern Mississippi
 N13—Army
 N20—at Cincinnati

NATIONAL RANK
97

Quarterbacks: Neil Suber is a big, strong-armed player who was effective at times last year, completing 49.2 percent of his passes while Memphis scored at least 31 points in three of his four starts. But the Tigers struggled all season throwing, and if Suber struggles this year the inconsistent but talented Kenton

Evans, who started six games last season, and Stephen Galbraith are waiting in the wings.

Running backs: Gerard Arnold may be the most overlooked star in the league. Last year he became only the second Memphis running back to rush for 1,000 yards, and he averaged 5.1 yards a carry. Redshirt freshmen Jeff Sanders and Derrice Wherry have the breakaway speed Arnold lacks. Teofilo Riley has been productive as a backup. Memphis averaged more than 200 yards rushing in its final six games.

Receivers: Damien Dodson is a big-play talent who will finish his career as the school's all-time leading receiver. Beyond Dodson, the corps has questions. Ken Coutain and Al Sermon have experience, but the loss of Darrius Blevins and Richie Floyd means Coutain and Sermon have to become major players for the first time.

Offensive line: The good news is that the Tigers may be as physically talented up front as they have been in years. The bad news is that three starters are one-year lettermen and another, sophomore Jason Austin, is new at center. This fall marks the debut of tackle DeCorye Hampton, one of the most heralded signees of the Rip Scherer era, as a starter. If Hampton plays as well as tackle David Sherrod and guard Artis Hicks did last season—both were C-USA all-freshmen picks—Arnold will find the going much easier.

Defensive line: This unit got a major attitude adjustment when Scherer lured coordinator John Thompson from Southern Mississippi, where he had been the architect of the league's best defense. Memphis expects Thompson's aggressive, attacking 4-3 scheme to re-energize what traditionally has been a Memphis strength. Thompson has talent to work with. Ends Tramont Lawless and Andre Arnold have the quickness to play the scheme. Tackles Calvin Lewis and Marcus Bell will be asked to clog the middle.

Linebackers: The starting unit returns intact, including standout middle man Kamal Shakir, who led the defense with 87 stops last year. He is flanked by Caspor Stiles and DeMorrio Shank. The trio should thrive in Thompson's new scheme.

Secondary: Thompson did his best to talk all-C-USA cornerback Mike McKenzie into staying one more year, but failed. That makes the secondary a bit problematic. The ever-improving Reginald Howard does

return at one corner. Idrees Bashir was moved from free safety to rover, a mutation of strong safety and linebacker. New corner Michael Stone will be tested early.

Special teams: Kicker Ryan White was Memphis' best weapon last season. As a freshman, he made every kick he attempted, hitting 16 field goals and 22 extra points. Dodson is a dangerous punt returner, though his average was down last season.

Schedule: The Tigers play Mississippi, Mississippi State and Tennessee in the first month. The toughest



New mark: After missing four games to injury in 1997, Arnold broke out last season with a school-record 1,059 rushing yards.

C-USA games—Southern Mississippi, Louisville and Army—will be at the Liberty Bowl, and Memphis doesn't play East Carolina and Houston.

Coaching: Scherer shook up his staff after last year's 2-9 finish. Thompson has installed a new defensive scheme and brought enthusiasm to the program. Mac McWhorter was hired to co-coordinate the offense with quarterbacks coach Rusty Burns. Russ Huesman (tight ends) and Tom Pendergast (receivers) were added to help perk up the offense.

Outlook: Even with a better defense, the Tigers face a rocky start because of their schedule. If they can survive until conference play, they have a decent shot at a middle-of-the-pack finish. They should win more than two games, but a winning record might be too much to ask.

TIGERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Al Sermon	6-4	185	Jr.	Chance Nesbit	6-1	185	So.
T	DeCorye Hampton	6-8	315	Jr.	*Baki Celaj	6-5	291	Fr.
G	Artis Hicks	6-4	281	So.	Lou Esposito	6-5	325	Sr.
C	Jason Austin	6-4	298	So.	*Matt Gehrke	6-3	275	Fr.
G	Tim Seymour	6-1	292	Sr.	*Trey Eyre	6-3	296	Fr.
T	David Sherrod	6-5	316	So.	T. Middlebrooks	6-3	317	Sr.
TE	Billy Kendall	6-5	227	Jr.	*Jeff Cameron	6-4	224	Fr.
WR	Damien Dodson	5-9	164	Sr.	Ken Coutain	6-2	211	Sr.
QB	Neil Suber	6-1	228	So.	Stephen Galbraith	6-0	203	Jr.
RB	Gerard Arnold	5-8	194	Sr.	Teofilo Riley	6-0	212	Sr.
FB	Brandon Tucker	5-10	225	Sr.	Rashad Bailey	5-11	218	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Andre Arnold	6-3	225	So.	Tony Brown	6-3	240	So.
T	Calvin Lewis	6-3	273	Jr.	Jarvis Slaton	6-3	265	Jr.
NT	Marcus Bell	6-2	295	Jr.	Tommy Vollmar	6-2	266	Jr.
E	Tramont Lawless	6-3	239	Sr.	Rodney Lancot	6-2	220	Jr.
OLB	DeMorrio Shank	5-11	228	Jr.	Ian Williams	6-4	228	Jr.
MLB	Kamal Shakir	6-0	229	Jr.	Corey Irby	5-10	225	Sr.
OLB	Caspor Stiles	6-0	220	Sr.	Michael Boatman	6-1	226	Sr.
CB	Michael Stone	6-0	182	Jr.	Anthony Harden	5-10	161	So.
SS	Glenn Sumter	6-1	188	So.	Kosha Irby	6-0	185	Jr.
FS	Idrees Bashir	6-2	192	So.	Keydrin Ward	6-0	177	So.
CB	Reginald Howard	5-11	187	Sr.	Fred Powell	5-10	190	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Ryan White	5-10	183	So.	P	Jim Cande	6-1	185	Sr.
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*Transferring starters in bold *Redshirt

9 Alabama-Birmingham

Site: Birmingham
Coach: Watson Brown (19-25, 4 years; 56-102-1 overall, 14 years)
Offensive coordinator: Pat Sullivan (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Bill Clay (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 5
Lettermen lost: 17
Lettermen returning: 56
Stadium: Legion Field (grass, 80,391)
Last bowl appearance: none
1998 TSN rank: 105th
1998 record: 4-7 as an independent

1998 RESULTS

at Nebraska, L 38-7
 Tennessee Tech, W 38-6
 Kansas, L 39-37 (OT)
 SW Louisiana, W 24-13
 at East Carolina, L 26-7
 at Louisiana Tech, L 54-23
 Virginia Tech, L 41-0
 at NE Louisiana, L 20-14
 at Tennessee, L 37-13
 Middle Tenn. St., W 26-17
 Tenn.-Martin, W 48-17

SCHEDULE

S4—at Missouri
 S11—at Virginia Tech
 S25—Houston
 O2—Northeast Louisiana
 O9—Memphis
 O16—at Cincinnati
 O23—at Wake Forest
 O30—at Louisville
 N6—East Carolina
 N13—Louisiana Tech
 N20—at Tulane

NATIONAL
 RANK
 106

Quarterbacks: Daniel Dixon and Lee Jolly are back, but the option no longer will be the option of choice with Pat Sullivan now the offensive coordinator. Dixon, who passed for 870 yards last season, could double that number this year. Jolly was the only QB to throw a TD pass (six) last year. When

Jolly opted to play baseball this spring, Dixon got most of the work in spring practice and a head start with Sullivan.

Running backs: It almost sounds unbelievable, but the Blazers return their top eight rushers, including Lucious Foster, who averaged 5.7 yards a carry. He also caught 22 passes for a team that threw just 229. Fullback Cory Conley, who gained 325 yards on 77 carries, figures to be challenged by junior college transfer Carl Fair.

Receivers: After years when their blocking was more in demand than their hands, Blazers wideouts will have to get used to the ball heading their way. The best of the bunch is Darrius Malone, who averaged 22.1 yards a catch last season on 24 receptions. Ernest Ross, who has shuttled between quarterback and wide receiver at UAB, could be a top target after moving back outside.

Offensive line: With the more finesse schemes of the option giving way to a pro set, the linemen need to adapt to the smash-mouth battles more associated with the pro set. UAB welcomes back three starters: left guard Preston Fray, center Brandon Herring and right guard Tim Medders. All stand at least 6-2 and weigh at least 285 pounds. The line likely won't be settled until the coaches have a chance to look at junior college transfers Ryan Estes, Tony Dollison and Kevin Ford.

Defensive line: The Blazers need to find replacements for their top two run stoppers, nose guard Curtis Jeter and tackle Pernell Davis. Eddie Freeman, a starting end, will move inside. Bryan Thomas returns at the other end. The front won't be nearly as big as it was last year, but it should be much quicker.

Linebackers: This is another area where first-time starters will have to emerge. Scott King, who alternated with departed starter Shannon Monroe, will be at one outside position. Darnell Stiel returns at the other outside slot. The big question is whether Nick Stewart can fill the big shoes of Brian Smith, who opted for the NFL draft after his junior season.

Secondary: Strong safety Kris Neal, the team's leading tackler last season, is back, which is a good and bad thing—good that he's back, bad that the strong safety is the leading tackler. Also back is corner Dwight Platt, who returned two of his four intercep-

tions for touchdowns last year.

Special teams: Lee Carter, one of three punters the Blazers tried last season, will be the main man this year. Jake Ariens has the leg for kickoffs, and Rhett Gallego is the chip-shot artist, setting a school mark last year with seven straight field goals. Maurice Gallery holds many school marks for kickoff returns.

Schedule: The vestiges of Alabama-Birmingham's I-AA days are gone, replaced by the likes of Missouri, Virginia Tech and Wake Forest on the non-league schedule. However, the Blazers haven't totally gone



ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

Deep position: The Blazers have a lot of backs, but look for Foster, UAB's No. 2 all-time rushing leader, to start for a third consecutive year.

berserk; Louisiana Tech and Northeast Louisiana also are on the slate.

Coaching: Watson Brown has guided the Blazers since the school revived its football program in 1995, and he has overseen the transition to I-A. He now will oversee UAB's move into a conference. Defensive coordinator Bill Clay has been around the I-A block. Sullivan, a statewide hero since winning the Heisman Trophy at Auburn, has returned home and is installing a pro-set offense.

Outlook: Brown believes he has his best and deepest team yet, especially on offense. What the Blazers don't have is a defense that can stop the big boys of C-USA. Alabama is a fertile recruiting ground, and the Blazers ought to benefit from their conference affiliation. But first, there will be a few lumps to take.

BLAZERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Darrius Malone	6-3	185	Sr.	Daryl Johnson	6-3	200	Sr.
T	Brett Richards	6-4	265	Jr.	*Philip Gambrell	6-8	280	Fr.
G	Preston Fray	6-5	305	So.	Kevin Ford	6-1	300	Jr.
C	Brandon Herring	6-2	285	Sr.	Ryan Estes	6-3	285	Jr.
G	Tim Medders	6-3	290	Jr.	Tony Dollison	6-2	285	Jr.
T	James Orrick	6-5	290	Jr.	Bo Perry	6-6	300	So.
TE	Undrae Crosby	6-5	262	Jr.	Johnni Arrington	6-5	245	Jr.
WR	Ernest Ross	5-11	190	Sr.	*Kenneth Borders	6-3	185	Fr.
QB	Daniel Dixon	6-2	195	Jr.	Lee Jolly	6-2	180	Jr.
RB	Lucious Foster	5-10	185	Sr.	Percy Coleman	5-10	185	Jr.
FB	Cory Conley	6-1	218	Jr.	Joe Meadow	6-0	230	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Otis Leverette	6-7	275	Jr.	Hassan McKeithan	6-2	235	So.
T	Eddie Freeman	6-4	280	So.	Kevin Thomas	6-7	275	So.
NG	Marlon Bush	6-3	255	So.	Rodney Jones	6-2	270	Jr.
E	Bryan Thomas	6-4	230	Jr.	Eric Lampley	6-3	225	Jr.
OLB	Darnell Stiel	6-1	195	Sr.	Scotty Hollins	6-0	185	Sr.
MLB	Nick Stewart	5-11	215	So.	*Starlin Ridley	6-0	215	Fr.
OLB	Scott King	6-2	245	Sr.	Adrian Abrams	6-1	230	So.
CB	Chris Brown	6-2	185	So.	Andrew Kopecky	5-11	180	So.
SS	Kris Neal	6-2	205	Sr.	Yudonn Blassou	6-0	205	Sr.
FS	Adrian Singleton	6-2	195	So.	Wes Foss	6-1	190	So.
CB	Dwight Platt	5-11	176	So.	Rodregis Brooks	5-11	175	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jake Ariens	5-10	180	Sr.	P Lee Carter	6-0	230	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

CONFERENCE USA

1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING (RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD)

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Derrick Nix, Southern Mississippi, So.	11	226	1,180	5.2	9	107.3
2. LeRoy Collins, Louisville	11	218	1,134	5.2	19	103.1
3. Gerard Arnold, Memphis, Sr.	11	208	1,059	5.1	6	96.3
4. Ketric Sanford, Houston, Sr.	11	222	1,054	4.7	6	95.8
5. DeMarco McCleskey, Cincinnati, So.	9	162	861	5.3	11	95.7
6. Toney Converse, Tulane, Jr.	11	156	871	5.6	7	79.2
7. Bobby Williams, Army	11	127	783	6.2	6	71.2
8. Jamaican Dartez, Tulane	10	129	651	5.0	7	65.1
9. Leonard Henry, East Carolina, So.	10	125	628	5.0	4	62.8
10. Johnny Goff, Army	9	125	552	4.4	2	61.3

PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Shaun King, Tulane	11	328	223	.680	6	3,232	9.9	36	183.3
2. Chris Redman, Louisville, Sr.	10	473	309	.653	15	4,042	8.6	29	151.0
3. Lee Roberts, Southern Mississippi	11	325	185	.569	11	2,680	8.3	24	143.8
4. David Garrard, East Carolina, So.	11	255	157	.616	7	2,091	8.2	14	143.1
5. Neil Suber, Memphis, So.	11	124	61	.492	4	930	7.5	5	119.0
6. Jason McKinley, Houston, Jr.	11	386	218	.565	13	2,437	6.3	18	118.2
7. Deontey Kenner, Cincinnati, Jr.	10	270	148	.548	13	2,047	7.6	6	116.2
8. David Bertucci, Cincinnati, Sr.	11	59	28	.475	4	356	6.0	1	90.2
9. Johnny Goff, Army	9	69	30	.435	6	431	6.3	2	88.1
10. Kenton Evans, Memphis, Jr.	10	161	72	.447	6	877	5.5	2	87.1

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RYG	YPR
1. Arnold Jackson, Louisville, Sr.	11	90	1,165	10	8.2	12.9
2. Jerrian James, Houston, Sr.	11	80	931	5	7.3	11.6
3. P.J. Franklin, Tulane	11	74	1,174	11	6.7	15.9
4. JaJuan Dawson, Tulane, Sr.	11	68	947	12	6.2	13.9
5. Sherrod Gideon, So. Mississippi, Sr.	11	66	1,186	13	6.0	18.0
6. Orlando Iglesias, Houston, Jr.	11	63	772	8	5.7	12.3
7. Chad Plummer, Cincinnati	11	61	852	0	5.6	14.0
7. Lavell Boyd, Louisville, Jr.	11	61	804	1	5.6	13.2
9. Ibn Green, Louisville, Sr.	10	55	884	12	5.5	16.1
10. Todd Pinkston, So. Mississippi, Sr.	11	52	848	7	4.7	16.3

1998 TEAM STATS

OFFENSE

OFFENSE RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Army (1)	293.8	1. Louisville (3)	408.9	1. Louisville (1)	559.6
2. Tulane (23)	202.4	2. Tulane (13)	304.7	2. Tulane (4)	507.1
3. Cincinnati (40)	173.8	3. So. Mississippi (25)	251.1	3. Cincinnati (25)	418.1
4. Louisville (58)	150.7	4. Cincinnati (31)	244.3	4. So. Mississippi (33)	397.9
5. So. Mississippi (61)	146.8	5. East Carolina (35)	235.7	5. East Carolina (43)	382.1
6. East Carolina (62)	146.4	6. Houston (41)	224.5	6. Army (53)	369.3
7. Houston (68)	142.9	7. Memphis (74)	186.8	7. Houston (56)	367.4
8. Memphis (73)	139.5	8. Army (110)	75.5	8. Memphis (80)	326.3

DEFENSE

DEFENSE RUSHING		PASS EFFICIENCY		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	Points	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Houston (41)	142.2	1. So. Mississippi (30)	110.8	1. So. Mississippi (34)	335.5
2. So. Mississippi (64)	162.5	2. East Carolina (67)	125.1	2. Houston (58)	368.2
3. Tulane (75)	170.0	3. Tulane (77)	131.0	3. East Carolina (65)	375.3
4. Memphis (79)	174.4	4. Houston (100)	144.5	4. Army (93)	417.5
5. Army (81)	174.8	5. Memphis (102)	145.1	5. Tulane (96)	430.3
6. East Carolina (95)	190.8	6. Louisville (105)	148.0	6. Memphis (106)	455.3
7. Louisville (108)	238.7	7. Army (106)	148.1	7. Louisville (110)	480.6
8. Cincinnati (109)	244.4	8. Cincinnati (111)	164.7	8. Cincinnati (111)	484.4

RECRUITING

1. LOUISVILLE: Anthony Floyd is a big-time athlete who could play several spots. Tavaris Spillman is a talented wideout. The Cardinals got immediate help on defense in the form of four junior college transfers, including run-stuffing lineman Donovan Arp, and speedy defensive backs Mike White and Corey Wallace. Gerry Ahrens is the quarterback of the future. Junior college transfer Eric Lockhart, sidelined by a knee injury most of last year, could help at running back.

2. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI: This balanced class features immediate help for the offensive line in junior college transfers Stacy Ford, Kendrick Key and Dennis Evans. If Ivory Brown makes his grades, coaches will have a big back to alternate with Derrick Nix. Junior college transfer Shawn Mills can help at wideout. Defensive backs Corey Hosey, Karone Champagne, Dameon McCray, Etric Pruitt and Alex Ray have promising futures. Speedy linebacker Joe Henley may be the sleeper of the class.

3. EAST CAROLINA: Steve Logan landed a quartet of burners in defensive backs Kelly Hardy, Travis Heath and Kevin Jackson, and wideout Torey Morris. Running back Keith Stokes is another break-away threat. Damane Duckett is a star defensive end. Buddy Smith is the top offensive lineman in the class. If Logan has his druthers, few freshmen will play this fall. Stokes is a candidate, as is kicker Bryce Harrington, who will be given the chance to shore up a sore spot. Josh Bledsoe is a big-time tight end.

4. HOUSTON: The Cougars landed immediate help on defense in end Grover Thompson, who's slated to start, and linebacker Junior Ioane, two of 11 junior college transfers. Hamin Milligan and William Pettis will get a look at safety, though coaches prefer to redshirt both. Tight end Travis Finch will play this fall, backing up Scott Regimbald. Brandon Middleton gives a deep receiving corps another option. The offensive line was stocked for the future with three freshmen, headed by Kelvin Banks, who was considered by some the best at his position in Texas.

5. MEMPHIS: The Tigers landed a trio of Georgia prizes in running backs B.J. Edwards, the Class 4A offensive player of the year in Atlanta the past two seasons; Quinton Cole, the Atlanta metro Class 3A player of the year; and DeMarquis "Coot" Terry, Georgia's Class AA player of the year. Junior college transfer Tripp Higgins and Ryan Johnson could help the receiving corps. Ends Cornell Bazile and Stanley Jackson show big promise. Jackson, who was hampered by a knee injury last year, was the only signee from Tennessee.

6. TULANE: Tommy Bowden's departure had impact, but Chris Scelfo did a nice job picking up the pieces. The Green Wave signed a load of athletes, including Chris Peterson. Running back Darlison Bracy was the Jacksonville (Fla.) Quarterback Club's player of the year. Free safety Quentin Brown was Class 4A defensive player of the year in Texas. Jeff Sanchez is a standout running back. Keep an eye on athletic Adrian Mitchell, who has a bright future.

7. CINCINNATI: The Bearcats filled defensive needs through the junior college ranks. Tackle Mario Monds enrolled at mid-semester, and he'll be joined in the fall by 10 more junior college players, including linebackers Aaron Guzman and Clarence Lindsey, defensive linemen Kirk Gibbs and Montrell Mitchell and defensive backs Aaron Butler and Antonio Davis, all who should help right away. Jonathon Ruffin will get first dibs on kicking duties. For immediate impact, this class ranks with the best in C-USA. Rick Minter signed just six high school prospects.

8. ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM: One of eight junior college transfers, running back Carl Fair is a standout, though he will have to wade through a crowded depth chart. Jeff Aaron was ranked among the best junior college quarterbacks. Offensive linemen Ryan Estes, Tony Dollison and Kevin Ford will compete for starting roles. 6-7, 275-pound defensive end Otis Leverette could help immediately.

ARMY does not release the names of its recruits until the fall.

SCOUTING Conference USA

The addition of Alabama-Birmingham will have several ramifications. The biggest probably won't be felt until next season: in the number of conference games each team plays.

In Conference USA's first two years (1996 and '97), each team played every other team, meaning there were five conference games in '96 and six in '97. When Army came on board a year ago, increasing league membership to eight teams, the number of C-USA games stayed at six. This fall, each team again will play six league games, meaning each school will not have two league foes on its schedule.

It has created a situation that does not sit well with many, and there's a good chance the league will expand to seven conference games in 2000.

Ascending: Louisville. Coach John L. Smith took a dispirited flock of Cardinals and authored the most dramatic turnaround in college football last season. The Cards went 7-4 in the regular season and earned a bid to the Motor City Bowl. Quarterback Chris Redman will be gone

uled for December 22), C-USA could land as many as four teams in postseason play. Southern Mississippi, Louisville and Houston should be locks, and East Carolina and Army have an outside chance.

Biggest shoes to fill: Patrick Ramsey and Derrick Joseph have the unenviable task of following Shaun King at Tulane. All King did last season was compile the highest season quarterback rating in NCAA Division I-A history (183.3) and lead the Green Wave to their first undefeated season.

Most overrated player: Houston running back Ketric Sanford. When he's on, he is one of the most exciting players in the league. But Sanford's career has been clouded by injuries, including a bout of appendicitis that nearly killed him in 1997. It's not all his fault, but Sanford has yet to carry the Cougars to an outright league title.

Most underrated player: Memphis running back Gerard Arnold. Last year he became the second back in school history to rush for 1,000 yards—playing on a team that had a running game and little else. In a league with backs such as Derrick Nix of Southern Mississippi, Sanford, DeMarco McCleskey of Cincinnati, Toney Converse of Tulane and Lucious Foster of Alabama-Birmingham, Arnold likely will get overlooked again. He shouldn't.

Best coach: Southern Mississippi coach Jeff Bower has produced five consecutive winning seasons at a school with one of the smallest budgets among I-A programs. The Golden Eagles have lost only two C-USA games in the league's three seasons, have yet to lose a conference home game and have won or shared two conference championships.

Best staff: Southern Mississippi. Bower and his assistants have built the most consistent program in the league. Coordinator Larry Kueck has juiced up the offense with a lot of help from Pete Perot (line), Steve Buckley (running backs) and Danny Baker (tight ends). New defensive coordinator Dave Wommack worked closely with departed coordinator John Thompson, who is now at Memphis.

Coach on the hot seat: Houston coach Kim Helton has seen his Cougars post consecutive 3-8 seasons since tying for the league title in 1996. The Cougars have the talent to make a push for a second title this season. For Helton's sake, they'd better come close.

Odds and ends: They say turnovers are the most critical of statistics, and



Taking flight: John L. Smith revived Louisville's football program last year. With one of the nation's top QBs, the Cardinals should soar again.

Cincinnati can attest to that. The Bearcats set a school record for total offense last year with 4,599 yards but had to win their last two games to avoid a winless campaign. Why? The Bearcats surrendered 484.4 yards and 41.5 points a game. But 37 turnovers were the real killer. ... Southern Mississippi is one of two schools to produce a 2,000-yard passer, 1,000-yard rusher and 1,000-yard receiver in each of the past two seasons. Nevada is the other. ... Tulane was one of two teams to finish last season unbeaten, joining Tennessee, which won the national championship. Houston had the dubious distinction of being the only school to lose to both. ... Tulane's 12-0 record last season was the first unbeaten record for a current C-USA member school since Memphis went 9-0-1 in 1963. ... Offense has been the name of the game in Conference USA. Last season, the league produced four 1,000-yard rushers and three 1,000-yard receivers. Five of the seven return, as does Louisville quarterback Chris Redman, who became the 14th I-A player to pass for more than 4,000 yards in a season. Redman did it in 10 regular-season games. Perhaps that explains why six of the nine conference schools—Southern Mississippi, Tulane, Cincinnati, Memphis, East Carolina and Houston—have new defensive coordinators. ... This year's Army-Navy game, scheduled for December 4 in Philadelphia, will be the 100th in the series. Army leads 48-44-7. ... What will Ryan White do for an encore this season? The Memphis kicker did not miss a kick last season, hitting 16 field goals and 22 extra points as a freshman. The precocious Tiger was the only college kicker to have a perfect season. —Tim Doherty

CONFERENCE USA RANKINGS	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBs	DBs		
ALA-BIRMINGHAM	9	9	9	9	8	8	4	7
ARMY	6	8	8	3	3	9	6	4
CINCINNATI	4	4	7	8	9	2	3	6
E. CAROLINA	3	5	6	6	2	5	7	2
HOUSTON	1	2	4	4	6	7	9	9
LOUISVILLE	2	3	1	5	5	4	2	3
MEMPHIS	8	7	5	2	4	6	5	5
S. MISSISSIPPI	5	6	2	1	1	3	1	1
TULANE	7	1	3	7	7	1	8	8

after this season, but Smith has signed his successor: highly touted Gerry Ahrens, who broke some of Redman's records at Male High in Louisville.

Descending: Tulane. Taking nothing away from first-year coach Chris Scelfo, but the Green Wave are certain to ebb. As soon as Tulane loses its first game of the season—which likely will happen in the Labor Day season opener at Southern Mississippi—it will have one more loss than it did a year ago.

Best matchup: Southern Mississippi at Louisville, November 20. The league's best defense vs. the best offense. And it probably will decide the conference championship.

Bowl bound: With the NCAA giving the OK to the Mobile Alabama Bowl (sched-

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY ANDY BOOGAARD, FRESNO (CALIF.) BEE

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

	Conference			Overall						
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Fresno State	5-3	192	135	5-6	265	225	60-45-2	.561	3,433	2,849
Rice	5-3	181	154	5-6	235	257	47-51-1	.475	2,331	2,441
Texas Christian	4-4	180	169	7-5	267	235	43-57-1	.426	2,135	2,663
Southern Methodist	4-4	122	114	5-7	225	248	27-70-3	.270	1,803	2,785
San Jose State	3-5	210	235	4-8	274	385	41-59-2	.402	2,610	3,147
Texas-El Paso	3-5	173	204	3-8	226	305	23-77-2	.225	1,973	3,204
Tulsa	2-6	117	180	4-7	222	258	38-61-1	.380	2,192	2,752
Hawaii	0-8	105	280	0-12	149	422	40-67-2	.367	2,567	3,156

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES non-conference, conference
1. FRESNO STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing attack must fulfill big hopes. Strong front seven needs to play aggressively. 	QB Billy Volek WR Charles Smith	LB Tim Skipper CB Payton Williams	Sept. 18 at UCLA Oct. 2 vs. Texas Christian
2. TEXAS CHRISTIAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. 1 running threat needs to develop. Must get better at defending the pass. 	TB LaDainian Tomlinson T Michael Keathley	E Aaron Schobel S Reggie Hunt	Sept. 4 vs. Arizona Oct. 2 at Fresno State
3. SOUTHERN METHODIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QB Josh McCown must continue to mature. Replacing two CBs could be troublesome. 	RB Rodnick Phillips G Austin Adami	LB Jason Simonton CB Tracy Hart	Sept. 4 vs. Arkansas Oct. 16 vs. Fresno State
4. RICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must control ball with veteran backs. Refurbished front seven must hold ground. 	QB Chad Richardson G Neal Gray	LB Dan Dawson S Travis Ortega	Sept. 18 at Texas Nov. 6 at Fresno State
5. TEXAS-EL PASO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak passing will pressure ground attack. CBs and OLBs can be exposed on perimeter. 	TE Brian Natkin RB Paul Smith	E Brian Young E Leif Larsen	Sept. 4 vs. New Mexico Oct. 9 vs. So. Methodist
6. SAN JOSE STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inexperienced line will struggle to get a push. Green secondary appears vulnerable. 	TB Deonce Whitaker WR Eric Ruhle	E Samson Sherrod T Abdul-Salam Noah	Oct. 2 at Stanford Oct. 30 at Texas-El Paso
7. TULSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid receiving corps needs to carry big load. Big holes must be filled at tackle. 	WR Damon Savage C Steve Schiller	CB Todd Franz LB Ashon Farley	Sept. 11 at Oklahoma State Sept. 25 at San Jose State
8. HAWAII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong RB corps needs to be a focal point. Secondary needs the help of a good line. 	T Kaulana Noa QB Dan Robinson	LB Matt Paul T Tony Tuioti	Sept. 4 vs. Southern California Oct. 23 at Tulsa

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



Billy Volek, Fresno State

As a son of a coach and a 23-game starter in major college football, there's little in the sport that Billy Volek hasn't seen or experienced. But ask Fresno State's senior quarterback about the 1998 season and he'll say it was different—in a bad way. "It was the hardest thing I've ever gone through in football," he says.

It's not so much the results that proved bothersome for the 6-2, 210-pound Volek, whose father, John, coaches Division I-AA Sacramento State. Volek's passing numbers were superb: 1,973 yards passing, a .579 completion percentage, 10 touchdowns and three interceptions in 261 attempts. He finished second in the WAC and 33rd nationally in passing efficiency (131.7 points) while leading the reconstructed Bulldogs of

coach Pat Hill to a second straight 5-3 league record.

The problem could be described in two words: David Carr. "I always felt like someone was breathing down my neck," Volek says in reference to Carr, media and fans.

Carr, the team's strong-armed junior quarterback, is being redshirted this year. That will give him the opportunity to be the starter in 2000 and 2001—and will enable Volek to breathe easier this season.

Carr, who has thrown only 52 passes at Fresno State, has "NFL tools," according to Hill. And many Fresno State fans are eager to see those tools on a regular basis.

"I feel a lot better that Dave is redshirted because I won't always be looking over my shoulder like I was last year," says Volek, who has thrown one interception for every 64.3 passes in his career and has displayed good mobility as well. "When I look back on it, I think I've matured. But it's a game I love, and to have someone try to take that away from me—well, I felt a little bit cheated." —Andy Boogaard



Brian Young, Texas-El Paso

The headlines that adorn Brian Young's biography in Texas-El Paso's media guide is flattering:

"All-America Candidate."
"Outland Trophy Candidate."
"Bronko Nagurski Award Candidate."
"Lombardi Award Candidate."

What it doesn't say is the 6-4, 274-pound senior defensive end once was a candidate for failure, and he's the first to admit it. He describes his off-the-field routine as a freshman in 1995: "I didn't go to class at all. I partied way too much. I'd go out at night and come home to get ready for practice; that's all I did."

It cost the homegrown talent from El Paso's Andress High. "I lost my scholarship, and my parents cut me off," Young says. "They took my car and didn't give me a penny. They told me they were

putting me out in the real world, and if I wanted to screw around, this is what I was looking forward to."

At the crossroad of his career—if not his life—Young had a decision to make: Go left or right. He chose the right way. "I did a lot of growing up," he says. "I've pushed myself hard."

The first push occurred in the classroom. Young first attended a local community college in the summer of 1996 before re-enrolling at Texas-El Paso and paying his way for a year. Coach Charlie Bailey and the Miners staff welcomed him back as a sophomore for the 1997 season, and Young's career has been on the upswing ever since.

"He has worked at becoming a football player," Bailey says. "He's got speed, he can run, he's strong, he can rush the passer and it's hard for people to block him one on one. We need to turn him loose because he's a big-play guy. I don't figure anyone in the WAC is as good as Brian Young." —Andy Boogaard

PRESEASON

All-WAC

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Charles Smith, Fresno State	5-9	175	So.
WR	Damon Savage, Tulsa	5-11	185	Sr.
TE	Brian Natkin, Texas-El Paso	6-4	238	Jr.
T	Michael Keathley, Texas Christian	6-4	295	Jr.
T	Jerry Chavira, Southern Methodist	6-5	295	Sr.
G	Neal Gray, Rice	6-3	275	Sr.
G	Austin Adami, Southern Methodist	6-3	305	Sr.
C	Steve Schiller, Tulsa	6-5	288	Jr.
QB	Billy Volek, Fresno State	6-2	210	Sr.
RB	Rodnick Phillips, Southern Methodist	6-0	210	Sr.
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson, Texas Christian	5-11	210	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Aaron Schobel, Texas Christian	6-4	246	Jr.
E	Brian Young, Texas-El Paso	6-4	274	Sr.
T	Tony Tuioti, Hawaii	6-1	287	Sr.
LB	Jason Simonton, Southern Methodist	5-11	225	Sr.
LB	Tim Skipper, Fresno State	5-7	200	Jr.
LB	Dan Dawson, Rice	6-1	180	So.
LB	Justin Johnson, Fresno State	6-3	220	Jr.
CB	Todd Franz, Tulsa	6-1	190	Sr.
CB	Payton Williams, Fresno State	5-8	175	Sr.
S	Reggie Hunt, Texas Christian	6-0	210	Sr.
S	Travis Ortega, Rice	6-3	205	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Chris Kaylakie, Texas Christian	6-0	190	Jr.
P	Colin Vadheim, Southern Methodist	6-1	180	Jr.
KR	Deonce Whitaker, San Jose State	5-6	180	So.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Dwight Carter, Hawaii	5-10	174	Sr.
WR	Damond Blueitt, Southern Methodist	6-3	205	Sr.
TE	B.J. Roberts, Texas Christian	6-3	238	So.
T	Kaulana Noa, Hawaii	6-5	317	Sr.
T	Rob Gatrell, Fresno State	6-5	300	Sr.
G	Trey Bandy, Southern Methodist	6-5	295	Sr.
G	Steve Wiedower, Tulsa	6-3	282	Jr.
C	Jeff Garner, Texas Christian	6-5	285	Jr.
QB	Chad Richardson, Rice	5-11	195	Sr.
RB	Paul Smith, Texas-El Paso	5-11	238	Sr.
RB	Deonce Whitaker, San Jose State	5-6	180	So.

DEFENSE

E	Luke Johnson, Southern Methodist	6-1	230	Sr.
E	Leif Larsen, Texas-El Paso	6-5	300	Sr.
T	J.W. Wilson, Texas Christian	6-3	270	Sr.
LB	Robert Weathers, Texas-El Paso	5-10	218	Sr.
LB	Matt Paul, Hawaii	6-3	243	Sr.
LB	Shannon Brazzell, Texas Christian	6-0	228	Jr.
LB	Vic Vilorio, Southern Methodist	5-10	225	So.
CB	Greg Walls, Texas Christian	6-1	170	Jr.
CB	Tracy Hart, Southern Methodist	5-11	195	Sr.
S	Curtis Fuller, Texas Christian	5-10	183	Jr.
S	Eric Gibson, Texas-El Paso	5-11	185	So.

SPECIALISTS

K	Ricky Bishop, Texas-El Paso	5-9	169	Jr.
P	Royce Huffman, Texas Christian	6-0	200	Sr.
KR	LaDainian Tomlinson, Texas Christian	5-11	210	Jr.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Bruce Galbert, WR, Texas Christian

Defense: Warrie Birdwell, T, Southern Methodist

1 Fresno State

Site: Fresno, Calif.
Coach: Pat Hill (11-12, 2 years)
Offensive coordinator: Andy Ludwig (3rd season)
Defensive coordinator: Kevin Coyle (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 10
Lettermen lost: 24
Lettermen returning: 44
Stadium: Bulldog (grass, 41,031)
Last league title won: 1993 (tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1993
1998 TSN rank: 60th
1998 record: 5-6; WAC Pacific: 5-3 (tie 3rd)

1998 RESULTS

at Colorado, L 29-21
 at Texas Tech, L 34-28
 Nevada, L 27-24
 Brigham Young, W 31-21
 at Texas Christian, L 21-10
 at Utah, L 24-16
 Texas-El Paso, W 32-6
 at New Mexico, W 28-20
 at San Diego State, L 10-0
 Hawaii, W 51-12
 San Jose State, W 24-21

SCHEDULE

S4—Portland State
 S11—at Oregon State
 S18—at UCLA
 S25—at Nevada
 O2—Texas Christian
 O9—Colorado State
 O16—at So. Methodist
 O23—Texas-El Paso
 O30—at Tulsa
 N6—Rice
 N13—at Hawaii
 N20—San Jose State

NATIONAL RANK
49

Quarterbacks: Senior Billy Volek is a dependable, blue-collar player whose two-year career stats (329-579-3,826, 27 TDs, 9 interceptions) are good. They would have been even better had he been operating under more preferable circumstances. His first two years were Pat Hill's first two years,

and given the coach's firm high school-based recruiting philosophy, Volek hasn't had the benefit of, say, junior college quick-fix help at wide receiver. Inexperience no longer is an excuse at wideout, so look for Volek's numbers to take a substantial jump. Drew Johns' development as a capable backup is critical because Hill is redshirting junior David Carr, allowing him two starting seasons after Volek's departure.

Running backs: Gone is Jaime Kimbrough, the 1998 WAC Pacific Division offensive player of the year. Stepping forward in his absence is the much more imposing Paris Gaines (6-1, 220). With better grades out of high school, Gaines probably would be at Nebraska or Washington. Akka-Ar Moses offers a stout complement at fullback.

Receivers: In Charles Smith, a 1998 TSN Freshman All-American, and Rodney Wright, who was just finding his electrifying stride before being lost for the season because of broken ribs midway through last season, Fresno State will field its finest combination since Charlie Jones and Brian Roberson in 1995. Both in the 5-8, 170-pound range, Smith and Wright—with running back experience as preps—are much more physical than their appearance would suggest.

Offensive line: This unit will determine whether the Bulldogs get championship rings for the first time in six years. Rob Gatrell, the only experienced player, offers all-conference ability at tackle or guard. Redshirt freshmen Rodney Michael (center) and Joe Schey (tackle) are two of the program's most promising offensive linemen of the decade. There's plenty of talent, although it's young, to fill the holes.

Defensive line: Confidence in this area is so strong that Justin Johnson, the line's top playmaker last year, was shifted to outside linebacker. His heir apparent at rush end is Nick Burley, who coaches say is a can't-miss star who will play rush end/outside linebacker. But an immediate starting job for Burley is no gimme in the presence of Giachino Chiamonte, Frank Battle, Ramsey Venner and Jake Probst. Alan Harper and Thabiti Lockhart lead a deep cast inside.

Linebackers: Star Tim Skipper (5-7, 200) will be flanked by ends/outside 'backers Johnson and Tyrell Grayson—a smallish yet efficient trio.

Secondary: Cornerback Payton Williams ranks with the WAC's finest, and Anthony Limbrick and Vernon

Fox headline a six-pack at safety that will upgrade the area, despite the loss of starters Efrain Guizar and Cory Hall. Dante Marsh, the team's fifth-leading tackler last year as a sophomore, should emerge from the competition for the other corner position.

Special teams: Kicker Jeff Hanna has few peers in the league. The return-cover teams assembled by special teams coach John Baxter will hit like the sledgehammer for which they play as a revered weekly honor. The heat will be on senior punter Joel Comfort, who will make his major-college debut while succeed-



Big hitter: The 5-7 Skipper was one of the shortest middle linebackers in college football last season—and one of the most productive.

ing All-Pacific Division selection Jeff Roberts.

Schedule: Consecutive non-conference games with Oregon State, UCLA and Nevada should provide necessary seasoning for the Bulldogs' offensive line. Texas Christian and Rice visit Fresno for conference showdowns.

Coaching: With keen recruiting, upgraded facilities and an efficient academic program, Hill is pushing all the right buttons. Retaining coordinators Andy Ludwig (offense), Kevin Coyle (defense) and Baxter (special teams) promises to be a challenge.

Outlook: The dividends of Hill's high school-based recruiting should begin paying off this season. Beat Oregon State and Nevada on the road and clip Texas Christian in that huge WAC opener, and a 10-2, league-title season could be in order.

BULLDOGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Rodney Wright	5-8	175	So.	Atnaf Harris	6-0	180	So.
T	*Joe Schey	6-6	305	Fr.	Kevin Jordan	6-5	295	Jr.
G	Ahmad Bhatti	6-3	308	Sr.	*DeJon Kelly	6-1	295	Fr.
C	*Rodney Michael	6-4	290	Fr.	Bryce Jackson	6-2	265	So.
G	Mike Stovall	6-2	285	So.	Johnny Potasi	6-2	305	So.
T	Rob Gatrell	6-5	300	Sr.	Jessie Watson	6-2	285	So.
TE	Vince Branstetter	6-3	255	Sr.	Billy Jack Pierce	6-1	230	So.
WR	Charles Smith	5-9	175	So.	*David Shabaglian	6-0	184	So.
QB	Billy Volek	6-2	210	Sr.	Drew Johns	6-3	195	So.
TB	Paris Gaines	6-1	220	So.	Akka-Ar Moses	5-11	235	Jr.
FB	Akka-Ar Moses	5-11	235	Jr.	Jeromy Blackwell	5-11	220	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Frank Battle	6-5	270	Sr.	Ramsey Venner	6-6	250	So.
NG	Thabiti Lockhart	6-3	280	Jr.	Seandale Jackson	6-2	270	Sr.
T	Alan Harper	6-2	275	So.	Brock Torresdal	6-5	265	So.
E	Tyrell Grayson	6-1	220	Jr.	Maurice Rodriguez	6-2	240	So.
OLB	Giachino Chiamonte	6-0	235	Fr.	*Nick Burley	6-4	240	Fr.
MLB	Tim Skipper	5-7	200	Jr.	Kevin Adams	6-3	230	Sr.
OLB	Justin Johnson	6-3	220	Jr.	Rasheed Saafir	6-1	205	Jr.
CB	Payton Williams	5-8	175	Sr.	Arlen Wells	5-11	190	Sr.
SS	Vernon Fox	5-10	200	So.	Curtis Edwards	6-0	195	So.
FS	Anthony Limbrick	6-1	195	Jr.	Terence Brown	6-2	205	Jr.
CB	Dante Marsh	5-10	190	Jr.	Tierre Sams	5-9	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jeff Hanna	6-1	196	Sr.	P	Joel Comfort	6-1	184	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

2 Texas Christian

Site: Fort Worth
Coach: Dennis Franchione (7-5, 1 year; 120-60-2 overall, 16 years)
Offensive coordinator: Dan Dodd (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Gary Patterson (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: Multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-2-5
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 12
Lettermen returning: 40
Stadium: Amon G. Carter (grass, 46,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (tie, Southwest)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 42nd
1998 record: 7-5 (beat USC in Sun Bowl); WAC Mountain: 4-4 (tie 5th)

NATIONAL RANK
57

diverse offense go. Don't discount Matt Schobel, a talented Texas A&M transfer with speed.

Running backs: Basil Mitchell is gone, but that's no reason to panic. LaDainian Tomlinson scored a team-high eight touchdowns and rushed for 717 yards, including 165 against Tulsa, last year. Tomlinson shared All-WAC Mountain Division second-team honors with Mitchell.

Receivers: In Mike Scarborough, Michael Crawford, Cedric James and Royce Huffman, Texas Christian returns its four leading receivers, for what that's worth. None caught more than 19 passes. It is a versatile group that can fill a four-wideout set. Expect things to get more crowded when 6-5, 190-pound freshman Bruce Galbert arrives in the fall.

Offensive line: In second-team all-division tackle Michael Keathley, center Jeff Garner and guard Jeff Millican, the Frogs return three linemen who played well as sophomore starters last season. However, the foundation is still a bit brittle, as unproven commodities fill most of the reserve positions.

Defensive line: Their names are Aaron Schobel, J.W. Wilson and Shawn Worthen, and for those who question their ability please call 1-800-USC-TROY. They're back as starters, no doubt breathing fire for the home opener against Arizona after stoning another Pac-10 foe, Southern California, to the tune of minus-23 yards rushing in the Sun Bowl last year. Never in the history of Tailback U. have the Trojans been so grounded.

Linebackers: Steady last year, Shannon Brazzell needs to be sensational this season in the absence of all-leaguer Joseph Phipps. Brazzell appears to be headed in that direction after making 13 tackles while playing in only the first half of the spring game. In the Frogs' 4-2-5 alignment, he'll play opposite Terrance Maiden, who closed his freshman season with a rush.

Secondary: There's depth, a bona fide star in weak safety Reggie Hunt, a star-in-waiting in strong safety Bird Jones and additional returning starters in strong safety Russell Gary and cornerback Greg Walls. Bottom line: There's no worry. The school has launched an All-America campaign for Hunt, the Horned Frogs' best athlete and a prospect with pro potential.

Special teams: It's special, indeed, with all-league

kicker Chris Kaylakie. He made 15 of 20 field-goal attempts last year, and routinely hammers his kickoffs deep into the end zone. Huffman has a three-year average of 41.6 yards per punt and also is a reliable punt returner. Tomlinson will return kickoffs early in the season before probably turning over the job over to Jones, who can fly.

Schedule: This lineup—as opposed to the convenient 1998 card that kept the Frogs home for four straight games after a season-opener at Iowa State—isn't as comforting. Texas Christian will open at home against



One less question: Tomlinson is a quality running back, and the Frogs will need to rely on him, considering their modest passing game.

national title contender Arizona before hitting the road for three straight, including a trip to Northwestern and the WAC opener at league favorite Fresno State.

Coaching: From Winfield, Kan., to Fort Worth, Texas, everywhere Franchione has waved his magical wand as a coach he has *Poof!* transformed a perennial loser into a winner. Last season's six-win improvement tied for best in the nation.

Outlook: Before y'all in Texas jump on the purple bandwagon and start drumming WAC dynasty, take a breath and remember one thing: This is a program that has had six winning seasons in 33 years. Yes, Fran the Man has replaced belittle with belief, but that could turn fragile in a hurry should Arizona, Northwestern and Fresno State connect with early haymakers.

1998 RESULTS

at Iowa State, W 31-21
 Oklahoma, L 10-9
 Air Force, W 35-34
 Vanderbilt, W 19-16 (OT)
 Fresno State, W 21-10
 at So. Methodist, L 10-6
 at Colorado State, L 42-21
 Wyoming, L 34-27
 Rice, L 14-12
 at Tulsa, W 17-7
 at UNLV, W 41-18
 So. California, W 28-19

SCHEDULE

S4—Arizona
 S11—at Northwestern
 S25—at Arkansas State
 O2—at Fresno State
 O9—San Jose State
 O16—Tulsa
 O23—at Rice
 O30—at Hawaii
 N6—Southern Methodist
 N13—North Texas
 N20—Texas-El Paso

HORNED FROGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Cedric James	6-3 195 Jr.	Michael Crawford	5-9 165 Jr.
T Michael Keathley	6-4 295 Jr.	J.T. Aughinbaugh	6-6 290 Fr.
G Victor Payne	6-1 293 So.	Shane Ladewig	6-3 293 Jr.
C Jeff Garner	6-5 285 Jr.	David Michel	6-1 297 Jr.
G Jeff Millican	6-6 300 Jr.	Josh Harbuck	6-6 305 Fr.
T David Bobo	6-5 285 Jr.	*Jamal Powell	6-6 295 Fr.
TE B.J. Roberts	6-3 238 So.	Joe Hill	6-3 211 So.
WR Royce Huffman	6-0 200 Jr.	*Kevin Brown	5-10 170 Fr.
QB Patrick Batteaux	6-0 195 Sr.	Matt Schobel	6-5 236 So.
TB LaDainian Tomlinson	5-11 210 Jr.	Charles Jones	5-9 195 Jr.
FB George Layne	6-0 244 So.	Chad Purcell	6-0 232 Jr.

DEFENSE

E Doug Shanks	6-3 255 Sr.	Chad McCarty	6-2 245 So.
T Shawn Worthen	6-1 290 Jr.	Fred Wright	6-3 276 So.
T J.W. Wilson	6-3 270 Sr.	Stuart Ashley	6-4 275 Jr.
E Aaron Schobel	6-4 246 Jr.	London Dunlap	6-3 221 Sr.
SLB Terrance Maiden	6-1 220 So.	Adrien Lewis	6-2 215 So.
MLB Shannon Brazzell	6-0 228 Jr.	Chad Bayer	5-11 210 So.
CB Kendrick Patterson	5-11 170 Jr.	Jason Goss	5-10 170 Jr.
WS Reggie Hunt	6-0 210 Sr.	Charlie Owens	6-0 180 So.
SS Russell Gary	5-10 198 Jr.	Bird Jones	6-1 210 Jr.
FS Curtis Fuller	5-10 183 Jr.	LaVar Veale	5-11 188 Jr.
CB Greg Walls	6-1 170 Jr.	Bo Springfield	5-10 170 Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Chris Kaylakie	6-0 190 Jr.	P Royce Huffman	6-0 200 Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold Redshirt

3 Southern Methodist

Site: Dallas
Coach: Mike Cavan (11-12, 2 years; 78-61-2 overall, 13 years)
Offensive coordinator: Greg Briner (2nd season)
Defensive coordinator: Eric Schumann (4th season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 9
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 36
Stadium: Cotton Bowl (grass, 68,252)
Last league title won: 1984 (tie, Southwest)
Last bowl appearance: 1984
1998 TSN rank: 69th
1998 record: 5-7; WAC Mountain: 4-4 (tie 5th)

NATIONAL RANK
61

Quarterbacks: Josh McCown inherits the job by default after '98 seven-game starter Chris Sanders bolted the program in January. McCown, who started five games before Sanders took over in the final month, enjoyed an encouraging spring after completing 46.5 percent of his passes in '98. Hotshot freshman

Kelan Luker could push McCown for playing time.
Running backs: No shortage of electricity here with the old (Rodnick Phillips) and the new (Kris Briggs). Last season, Phillips became the first Mustangs back since Reggie Dupard in 1985 to gain 1,000 yards. Briggs rushed for 3,886 yards and 47 touchdowns in his final two years in high school.

Receivers: Damond Blueitt is a go-to target capable of postseason honors. He made 24 of his 37 receptions last season in the final five games. With leading receiver Albert Johnson gone, a complement for Blueitt needs to surface. Top candidates could come from a fabulous freshman class of wideouts, featuring Chris Cunningham and Marcus Carter. Junior Tony Newsome caught seven passes for 122 yards and two touchdowns in the spring game. Michael Brown, who had six receptions for 54 yards, will start at tight end.

Offensive line: Phillips should exceed his 1,115-yard rushing total of last season operating behind virtually the same line. The foundation is formed by a trio that received all-league votes: left tackle Jerry Chavira, left guard Trey Bandy and Austin Adami, who is shifting from center to right guard. James McCarthy, who started the final three games of '98 at right guard, is moving to right tackle. Junior letterman Rich Nichols has the handle at center, leaving '98 eight-game starter Bill Holder searching for a job.

Defensive line: Having absorbed big losses—notably athletic end Mercury Hall—the last thing the Mustangs needed was a major injury. That's exactly what occurred in the spring when returning tackle Alex Pahulu was lost for the 1999 season because of a torn ACL. Redshirt freshman Lute Croy will step into Pahulu's spot. A banner season is projected for end Luke Johnson, who is returning from a knee injury that caused him to miss the last three games in '98.

Linebackers: Here's where SMU rides high in the saddle, particularly in the form of middle linebacker Jason Simonton, a top candidate for WAC defensive player of the year. No doubt overshadowed in Simonton's presence again will be outside man Vic Vilorio. Getting a late start because of a broken leg, Vilorio's second-half performance last season corresponded with the team's dominance that resulted in the nation's 14th-best yield average of 297.2 yards a game.

Secondary: There are big holes, with four-year let-

termen cornerbacks Donald Mitchell and Jacoby Rhinehart having exhausted their eligibility. One corner spot should be in good hands with Tracy Hart shifting from safety. Raymon Brown will handle strong safety, and youngsters Kevin Garrett (corner) and Shane O'Neill (free safety) will man the other spots.

Special teams: Punter Colin Vadheim should push for All-WAC honors after averaging 42.1 yards in 1998. Kicker Roy Rios quit, leaving the onus on sophomore Adam Walterscheid. Tommy Dorsey, who blocked three punts last year, is back.



Mauler in the middle: Simonton compensates for his lack of ideal linebacker size (5-11, 235) with a nasty disposition.

Schedule: The Mustangs have a chance to win their first conference championship in 15 years, though four of the seven league games will be on the road, including the last two (Texas Christian, Tulsa). Playing Fresno State and Rice in Dallas will give SMU an edge, even if only 20,000 show up at the Cotton Bowl.

Coaching: With Mike Cavan established as a hot ticket nationally after two years as coach, defensive coordinator Eric Schumann producing results and offensive coordinator Greg Briner balancing the attack, everything's in place. But for how long?

Outlook: Cavan's iron-fisted approach, combined with impressive recruiting and the reality of a new, on-campus stadium a year away, is inspiring newfound optimism in Dallas. If they beat Fresno State, the Mustangs could play for the title three weeks later at Texas Christian.

MUSTANGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Tony Newsome	6-2	200	Jr.	Bryan McDearman	5-11	195	So.
T Jerry Chavira	6-5	295	Sr.	Kevin Gober	6-5	280	So.
G Trey Bandy	6-5	295	Sr.	Jeff Exleben	6-5	300	Jr.
C Rich Nichols	6-3	250	Jr.	Cory Fross	6-4	285	So.
G Austin Adami	6-3	300	Sr.	Bill Holder	6-7	305	Sr.
T James McCarthy	6-3	275	So.	*Judson Davis	6-5	280	Fr.
TE Michael Brown	6-1	250	So.	*David Ellen	6-2	255	Fr.
WR Damond Blueitt	6-3	205	Sr.	Rob Fowler	5-10	165	Jr.
QB Josh McCown	6-3	200	So.	Steve O'Neill	5-11	220	Jr.
RB Rodnick Phillips	6-0	220	Sr.	Kris Briggs	5-11	210	Fr.
FB Jeff Pennington	6-1	235	Sr.	Jeff Woods	5-8	190	Jr.

DEFENSE

E Chase Schavda	6-2	250	Jr.	Markus Pratt	6-0	250	So.
T Jerry Evans	6-1	275	So.	Chris Post	6-3	265	So.
T *Lute Croy	6-2	285	Fr.	Joey Slaten	6-6	305	So.
E Luke Johnson	6-1	230	Sr.	Johnson Patman	6-2	235	So.
OLB Kevin Aldredge	6-1	255	So.	Billy Jack Williams, Jr.	6-2	175	Jr.
MLB Jason Simonton	5-11	235	Sr.	Corey Riley	6-0	230	So.
OLB Vic Vilorio	5-10	220	So.	Roy Coats	6-0	215	Sr.
CB Tracy Hart	5-11	190	Sr.	James Orr	5-10	165	So.
SS Raymon Brown	6-2	190	Sr.	*Chuck Thymes	5-9	170	Fr.
FS Shane O'Neill	5-9	195	So.	Tommy Dorsey	5-9	180	So.
CB *Kevin Garrett	5-9	180	Fr.	Courtney Richardson	5-9	175	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Adam Walterscheid	5-11	195	So.	P Colin Vadheim	6-1	180	Jr.
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* Returning starters in bold

4 Rice

Site: Houston
Coach: Ken Hatfield (26-28-1, 5 years; 139-90-4 overall, 20 years)
Offensive coordinator: David Lee (5th season)
Defensive coordinator: Roger Hinshaw (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: spread option
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 11
Lettermen lost: 16
Lettermen returning: 42
Stadium: Rice (turf, 70,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (Southwest, tie)
Last bowl appearance: 1961
1998 TSN rank: 58th
1998 record: 5-6; WAC Mountain: 5-3 (tie 3rd)

1998 RESULTS

So. Methodist, W 23-17
 at Purdue, L 21-19
 Northwestern, L 23-14
 at Texas, L 59-21
 at San Jose State, L 20-17
 Tulsa, W 14-10
 at Wyoming, L 34-24
 Colorado State, W 35-23
 at Texas Christian, W 14-12
 UNLV, W 38-16
 at Air Force, L 22-16

SCHEDULE

S4—at Houston
 S11—at Michigan
 S18—at Texas
 S25—Navy
 O2—at Tulsa
 O9—at Hawaii
 O16—San Jose State
 O23—Texas Christian
 O30—at So. Methodist
 N6—at Fresno State
 N13—Texas-El Paso

NATIONAL RANK
63

Quarterbacks: Chad Richardson returns for his senior season with designs on improving on a 37.4 percent completion rate. While the option-driven Owls ranked fifth in the nation last year in rushing offense (257.2), a 111th-ranked passing offense (60.6) was responsible for a No. 87

ranking overall. Richardson largely was responsible for the Owls rushing for 2,829 yards, third most in school history, and losing only 14 fumbles, tying a school record. The latter is an impressive figure considering all the ball-handling in the triple-option attack.

Running backs: Anthony Griffin, who averaged a team-best 6.6 yards rushing on 68 carries last season as Michael Perry's sub, steps into a full-time role. Also returning is fullback Jamie Tyler, who was second on the team in rushing (614 yards) and first in touchdowns (eight) last year.

Receivers: While this isn't a marquee position at Rice, there's something to be said about at least posing a threat. The Owls will enter the season with no wide-outs who made more than two receptions last year. Gilbert Okoronkwo, at 6-3, 180 pounds, will provide Richardson with a good target.

Offensive line: With three starters back, plus a fourth lineman with considerable experience and the top tight end, the foundation is in place for another formidable rushing attack. Both tackles are proven performers—Rod Beavan on the left side and Aaron Sandoval on the right. Left guard Neal Gray has started 30 of 33 games. Depth is available, too.

Defensive line: This unit includes journeymen in the interior, and freshmen and sophomores prepared to serve their apprenticeship on the exterior. Trouble will prevail until the Owls are able to keep opponents from double- and triple-teaming tackle Judd Smith, who will start for the fourth year.

Linebackers: Two-year reserve Wesley Kubesch, who will play alongside redshirt freshman Rashard Pittman, had a terrific spring. The "bandit" outside linebacker role belongs to aggressive Dan Dawson, who led the team in tackles last year, including 14 against Texas Christian.

Secondary: Referring to this group as "secondary" is purely semantics because it's the primary strength of the defense. Travis Ortega, a 19-game starter, ranks with the WAC's best strong safeties. Jason Hebert, one of the team's leading tacklers as a reserve last year, will step in full-time at free safety, enabling LonDee Smith to shift to linebacker. Cornerback Adrian Sadler is a returning starter. The other corner will be sophomore Josh McMillan, who was impressive in spring

practice.

Special teams: Derek Crabtree, who was perfect on five field-goal attempts and 18 extra-point kicks after replacing Scott Grimes last year, is back. Returning punter Victor Young will be pushed by freshman Travis Hale. The challenge will be to find capable replacements for return specialists Perry and LaDoughyous McCalla.

Schedule: Five of the first six games are on the road, including trips to Houston, Michigan and Texas to open the season. There are seven road games, the last



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Needs work: Richardson is a fine runner, but he needs to improve as a passer. He completed just 34 passes last season.

two against WAC powers Southern Methodist and Fresno State. "Nobody in America is playing more road games than we are," coach Ken Hatfield says. "That's a major concern."

Coaching: After losing his defensive coordinator after the '96 and '97 seasons, Hatfield is relieved that his staff returns intact this fall. "When that happens," Hatfield says, "it's much easier to make adjustments, especially early in the year. That's vital in our program, maintaining the continuity on the staff."

Outlook: In the three years it has played in the WAC, Rice has contended for division titles before losing key road games in November—Brigham Young in '96, Utah in '97 and Air Force in '98. "We hope it comes down to the same situation," Hatfield says. That is a real possibility—in Fresno on November 6.

OWLS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Gilbert Okoronkwo	6-3	180	So.	Evan Meeks	5-10	180	So.
T	Rod Beavan	6-2	285	Jr.	Anthony Mowry	6-5	235	So.
G	Neal Gray	6-3	275	Sr.	*Keith Meyer	6-3	285	Fr.
C	Matt Baldwin	6-2	275	Jr.	Brandon Wallace	6-3	265	So.
G	Heath Fowler	6-3	285	So.	Chris Bryant	6-5	295	So.
T	Aaron Sandoval	6-2	285	Jr.	Billy Harvin	6-4	240	So.
TE	Shan Jackson	6-2	285	Sr.	Brandy Manning	6-5	230	So.
QB	Chad Richardson	5-11	195	Sr.	Korey Evans	5-11	170	So.
TB	Anthony Griffin	5-10	185	Jr.	Derek Gary	6-0	185	So.
TB	Leroy Bradley	5-11	195	So.	*Vincent Hawkins	5-8	175	Fr.
FB	Jamie Tyler	6-0	195	So.	Clint Leschber	6-1	230	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Jake Jackson	6-3	250	Jr.	Clint Johnson	6-2	220	So.
T	Judd Smith	6-1	280	Sr.	Larry Brown	6-2	285	So.
NG	B.J. Ferguson	6-3	275	So.	Willie Merritt	6-4	260	So.
E	*Nick Sabula	6-3	235	Fr.	Derrick Brown	6-4	220	So.
ILB	Rashard Pittman	5-11	220	So.	LonDee Smith	6-2	190	Jr.
ILB	Wesley Kubesch	6-1	225	Sr.	Joe Bob Thompson	6-1	210	So.
OLB	Dan Dawson	6-1	180	So.	Larry Ruffin	5-11	205	Sr.
CB	Josh McMillan	6-0	170	So.	*Antwan Shell	5-11	180	Fr.
SS	Travis Ortega	6-3	205	Jr.	*Greg Gatlin	6-0	165	Fr.
FS	Jason Hebert	6-0	185	So.	Karlon Bedford	5-10	190	Sr.
CB	Adrian Sadler	5-10	180	Jr.	Kenny Smith	5-8	160	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Derek Crabtree	6-4	210	So.	P	Victor Young	6-1	190	Sr.
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* Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

5 Texas-El Paso

Site: El Paso

Coach: Charlie Bailey (14-45-1, 6 years; 26-66-2 overall, 9 years)

Offensive coordinator:

Gary Nord (3rd season)

Defensive coordinator:

Ronnie Jones (3rd season)

Offensive scheme: Pro

set

Defensive scheme: 3-4

Starters lost: 12

Lettermen lost: 18

Lettermen returning: 44

Stadium: Sun Bowl (turf, 52,000)

Last league title won:

none

Last bowl appearance:

1988

1998 TSN rank: 92nd

1998 record: 3-8; WAC

Pacific: 3-5 (tie 5th)

1998 RESULTS

at Texas Tech, L 35-3

Oregon, L 33-26

at New Mexico St., L 33-24

Colorado State, L 20-17

at New Mexico, W 22-19

San Jose State, W 28-21

at Fresno State, L 32-6

Hawaii, W 30-13

at Utah, L 34-27 (OT)

Brigham Young, L 31-14

at San Diego St., L 34-29

SCHEDULE

S4—New Mexico

S11—at Oregon

S18—at Kansas State

S25—New Mexico State

O2—at Hawaii

O9—Southern Methodist

O16—at Arizona

O23—at Fresno State

O30—San Jose State

N6—Tulsa

N13—at Rice

N20—at Texas Christian

NATIONAL RANK
92

Quarterbacks: After sharing the position with John Rayborn for much of the last two seasons, the job is Rocky Perez's to lose. While he has proved to be an athlete of grit in pulling out a few victories, Perez might lose it to senior Jay Stuckey, an Oklahoma transfer who is familiar with offensive coordinator

Gary Nord, who also came from Oklahoma. Nord has implemented some shotgun, four-receiver and option looks, all of which befits Stuckey because of his running ability.

Running backs: Coaches believe senior Paul Smith, a chiseled 5-11, 238 pounds with 4.4 speed, will have a breakout season as the team's featured back for the first time in his career. He lost momentum last year when he suffered a knee injury, then had to shift to fullback after Elzie Johnson dislocated a hip. Johnson is only given a 50 percent chance of returning this fall.

Receivers: Although the Miners lost one of the most accomplished receivers in school history in Jimmy Carpenter, along with the other starter, Keonta Golson, they have quality replacements. The group begins with electrifying sophomore Lee Mays and juniors Allan Ray and Brian Natkin. The latter ranked fourth in the nation in receptions among tight ends last year.

Offensive line: This unit was in disarray this spring. Left tackle Brent Hunt suffered a broken ankle playing basketball 10 days prior to spring practice. Right guard Jeff Seeton missed the spring session, still recovering from shoulder surgery. Right tackle Jonathon Ruiz became academically ineligible and is unlikely to be back this fall. The best of the group appears to be right tackle Lawrence Norman, a 6-2, 300-pounder who would have been a more highly regarded recruit out of high school if he was taller.

Defensive line: With seniors Brian Young and Leif Larsen, the Miners have no rival in the WAC at end. Young, who is from El Paso, is one of the best little-known ends in the nation. Larsen is still learning the game; he had not played before arriving in El Paso from Norway.

Linebackers: Robert Weathers, a powerful run stopper, and Trey Merckens provide experience. An intriguing prospect is Bubba Wiseman, a 6-foot, 248-pound redshirt freshman. If Wiseman sheds some weight, he has a good opportunity to claim the inside position vacated by departed Dale Kirry.

Secondary: "The thing that really concerns me is whether we can find two quality corners who can play," says coach Charlie Bailey, "and I don't know if we have that." Sophomore Crance Clemons and junior college transfer Anthony Wadley were impressive in

spring practice. The outlook is brighter at safety, with returning starters A.J. Sheppard and Eric Gibson. The latter was TSN's 1998 Pacific Division defensive newcomer of the year. Gibson, however, is struggling to remain academically eligible.

Special teams: The kicker is Ricky Bishop, who made 15 of 20 field-goal attempts, including a 48-yarder, last year. Also back is Javier Sanchez, who finished third in the conference and 17th nationally in punt returns (12.2-yard average). Junior college transfer Glenn Beard will be the punter.



TEXAS-EL PASO

Fine Miner: Natkin is a talented tight end, but the Miners' lack of an established quarterback may keep his numbers modest.

Schedule: The Miners have road games with four 1998 bowl teams—Oregon, Kansas State, Arizona and Texas Christian—in addition to WAC favorite Fresno State. Beating New Mexico in the season opener at El Paso is imperative, with trips to Oregon and Kansas State to follow.

Coaching: There's hardly a more respected coach in the WAC than Bailey. His superiors gave him a three-year contract extension after last season. And for the first time in the decade, not one assistant left for another job in the offseason.

Outlook: The 3-8 Miners were competitive last season, in position to win all but two games. Now it is time to take the next step and achieve the program's first winning season since 1988. To even think 7-5, however, is to daydream.

MINERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Allan Ray	6-2	197	Jr.	*Sherman Austin	5-8	165	Fr.
T Brent Hunt	6-6	288	Jr.	*Ariel Famaligi	6-2	280	Fr.
G Robert Carter	6-6	310	Sr.	*Ariel Famaligi	6-2	280	Fr.
C Carey Clayton	6-4	272	Jr.	*Curtis Castle	6-3	235	Fr.
G Jeff Seeton	6-5	304	Jr.	*Jake Fowler	6-3	270	Fr.
T Lawrence Norman	6-2	300	So.	Keith Warren	6-5	287	So.
TE Brian Natkin	6-4	238	Jr.	Cliff Johnston	6-4	220	Sr.
WR Lee Mays	6-4	188	So.	James Thompson	6-2	191	Sr.
QB Rocky Perez	6-1	197	Jr.	Jay Stuckey	6-2	180	Sr.
TB Paul Smith	5-11	238	Sr.	Javier Sanchez	5-11	185	Sr.
FB Joey Knapp	6-4	215	So.	*Scott Glasscock	6-2	220	Fr.

DEFENSE

E Brian Young	6-4	274	Sr.	Menson Holloway	6-2	264	Sr.
NT Bobby King	6-3	260	So.	Fade Bouras	6-2	245	So.
E Leif Larsen	6-5	300	Sr.	John Crutcher	6-3	250	Sr.
SLB Trey Merckens	6-2	232	Jr.	*Karmul High	6-2	217	Fr.
WLB Robert Weathers	5-10	218	Sr.	*Camar Jackson	6-3	220	Fr.
MLB Barry King	6-2	237	So.	*Bubba Wiseman	6-0	248	Fr.
OLB Hal Stansbury	6-2	240	Sr.	*Gabe Williams	6-4	220	Fr.
CB Nick Salinas	5-11	185	Sr.	Anthony Wadley	6-0	185	Jr.
SS A.J. Sheppard	5-10	186	Jr.	Brian Walker	5-9	168	So.
FS Eric Gibson	5-11	185	So.	Derek Walker	6-2	186	Jr.
CB Crance Clemons	5-9	160	So.	Chris Taylor	6-0	164	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Ricky Bishop	5-9	169	Jr.	P Glenn Beard	5-11	210	Jr.
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Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

6 San Jose State

Site: San Jose
Coach: Dave Baldwin (8-15, 2 years; 17-27 overall, 4 years)
Offensive coordinator: Steve Graf (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Todd Throckmorton (2nd season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: flex
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 25
Lettermen returning: 40
Stadium: Spartan (grass, 30,578)
Last league title won: 1992
Last bowl appearance: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 81st
1998 record: 4-8; WAC Pacific: 3-5 (tie 5th)

1998 RESULTS

at Stanford, W 35-23
 Idaho, L 1-12
 at Oregon, L 58-3
 New Mexico, W 37-20
 at Virginia, L 52-14
 Rice, W 20-17
 at Texas-El Paso, L 28-21
 at Brigham Young, L 46-43
 Utah, L 49-17
 at Hawaii, W 45-17
 San Diego State, L 34-6
 at Fresno State, L 24-21

SCHEDULE

S4—at Louisiana State
 S11—at Colorado
 S18—St. Mary's (Calif.)
 S25—Tulsa
 O2—at Stanford
 O9—at Texas Christian
 O16—at Rice
 O23—Southern Methodist
 O30—at Texas-El Paso
 N6—Hawaii
 N20—at Fresno State

NATIONAL RANK
100

Quarterbacks: Coach Dave Baldwin achieved a goal in the spring when senior Chris Kasteler separated himself from sophomore Marcus Arroyo for the starting job. The pair alternated by quarters for the first half of 1998 before Kasteler assumed the job down the stretch. He proved his mettle in

a 319-yard, four-TD performance at Brigham Young. **Running backs:** Deonce Whitaker is the mightiest of Spartans—all 5-6, 180 pounds of him. He belied his stature by playing in all 12 games and handling the ball 191 times last year. Should the odds catch up to Whitaker, there is no other running back with a major-college carry on the roster.

Receivers: Baldwin brought with him a "Fastbreak Football" theme when he arrived from I-AA Cal State Northridge in 1997. Unfortunately, he didn't bring any fastbreak players. That has changed, he says, even with the loss of two-time all-league choice Oliver Newell. With a healthy Eric Ruhle, the conversion of former tailback Donte Scarbrough and the presence of tested targets Shawn Green, Waking Bailey and Casey LeBlanc, Baldwin will revert to his original intention.

Offensive line: The Spartans celebrated when tackle David Loverne became the program's first lineman drafted in 22 years. Now the rub: Aside from right tackle Chris Fe'esago, there's not a proven lineman on the team. Of the other probable starters, left tackle Oscar Comeaux and left guard Roger Neadeau are junior college transfers, and center Bruno Contreras and right guard Jose Gomez are sophomores. The outlook is more promising if Ryan Wadkowski rebounds from a knee injury.

Defensive line: While Baldwin has upgraded many areas, this is not among them. Until changes are made, the Spartans won't have a winning season. Tackle Abdul-Salam Noah will start for the third consecutive year, and Samson Sherrod explodes off the edge with 4.67 speed. Tackle Edgar Nava must return to health after blowing out a knee, and three junior college transfers must make an immediate impact.

Linebackers: On paper, this represents the strength of the defense. One might ask how thin the paper is, considering so many players return from the nation's 97th-ranked unit. Depth shouldn't be a problem with Josh Parry, Floyd Johnson, Alfonso Moran and Luke La Herran on the inside, and Ron-Jon Acuna and Jeff Wucinich on the outside assuming the new rover-type linebacker role.

Secondary: It would surprise no one if the Spartans were to make huge strides among their front seven only to trip over their feet in the secondary. It's a complete overhaul here, with two-time all-league free safe-

ty Lyle West the biggest loss. Chris Lawson, a nickel back who started two games last year, provides some semblance of experience at one corner, but Carlos Koustas is the man for now. Elsewhere? Bombs away.

Special teams: Whitaker established an NCAA record in '98 for most kickoff returns (51) and most kickoff return yards (1,214), which can be interpreted two ways: He was good and the team's defense was bad, affording him the excess opportunity. Tim Morgan needs to add leg to his punting after averaging 37 yards. Morgan or redshirt freshman Nick Gilliam will



Familiar sight: Whitaker's 51 kickoff returns last year were the most ever in Division I-A, and his 1,214 return yards set another record.

attempt to emulate the excellent accuracy of departed kicker David Silberstein.

Schedule: The latest made-to-fail calendar will ship the Spartans to Louisiana State and Colorado to open the season, to the state of Texas three times for WAC games (Texas Christian, Rice, Texas-El Paso) and to league favorite Fresno State to close the season.

Coaching: With a pay scale that starts assistants as low as \$30,000—in a steep cost-of-living area—Baldwin faces a no-win battle of retaining good help. Four assistants bolted in the offseason, decimating the staff's continuity.

Outlook: The good (QB, RB, WR, LB) will be crushed under the weight of the bad (OL, DL, DBs, schedule). Baldwin should be national coach of the year if San Jose State wins six games.

SPARTANS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Eric Ruhle	5-10	178	Sr.	Steven Pulley	5-11	201	Sr.
T Oscar Comeaux	6-4	283	Jr.	Erik Van Gaalen	6-4	253	Jr.
G Roger Neadeau	6-3	268	Jr.	Jeremy Dominguez	6-4	340	Jr.
C Bruno Contreras	6-2	293	So.	Chris Evans	6-2	295	Fr.
G Jose Gomez	6-2	317	So.	Ryan Wadkowski	6-5	302	Jr.
T Chris Fe'esago	6-3	324	So.	*Scott Vandygrift	6-4	291	Fr.
TE Kevin Michaelis	6-4	245	So.	Jesse Rogers	6-3	250	Jr.
WR Shawn Green	6-2	195	Jr.	Donte Scarbrough	5-8	178	Sr.
WR Casey LeBlanc	5-10	191	So.	Waking Bailey	5-9	181	Jr.
QB Chris Kasteler	6-2	199	Sr.	Marcus Arroyo	6-1	186	So.
RB Deonce Whitaker	5-6	180	So.	Patrick Battle	5-11	225	So.

DEFENSE

E James Ditch	6-4	260	Sr.	Marty Peterson	6-3	281	Sr.
T Abdul-Salam Noah	6-2	274	Sr.	Jay Sandefur	6-1	260	So.
T Steve Kappahn	6-1	286	Sr.	Edgar Nava	6-1	269	Jr.
E Samson Sherrod	6-4	253	Sr.	David Coats	6-2	234	Jr.
OLB Ron-Jon Acuna	6-4	218	Sr.	Jeff Wucinich	6-2	246	Sr.
ILB Josh Parry	6-2	239	Jr.	Alfonso Moran	6-0	232	Jr.
ILB Floyd Johnson	6-0	213	Sr.	Luke La Herran	6-0	220	So.
CB *Carlos Koustas	5-9	184	Fr.	Chris Lawson	5-10	182	Sr.
SS Travis Seaton	5-10	186	Jr.	Anwar Johnson	5-9	182	So.
FS Kenny Sanchez	5-9	174	Jr.	Zack Rance	5-11	196	Fr.
CB Dorae Lewis	5-8	169	Jr.	Solomon Wilson	5-11	188	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K *Nick Gilliam	5-8	170	Fr.	P Tim Morgan	6-6	213	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

7 Tulsa

NATIONAL RANK
102

Site: Tulsa, Okla.

Coach: Dave Rader (48-74-1, 11 years)

Offensive coordinator: Rocky Felker (3rd season)

Defensive coordinator: Pat Henderson (3rd season)

Offensive scheme:

Pro set

Defensive scheme: 4-3

Starters lost: 10

Lettermen lost: 17

Lettermen returning: 44

Stadium: Skelly (turf, 40,385)

Last league title won:

1985 (Missouri Valley)

Last bowl appearance: 1991

1998 TSN rank: 80th

1998 record: 4-7; WAC Mountain: 2-6 (7th)

1998 RESULTS

SW Missouri St., W 49-14

Oklahoma State, W 35-20

at West Virginia, L 44-21

San Diego State, L 24-14

at Colorado State, L 34-7

at Rice, L 14-10

Air Force, L 42-21

at UNLV, W 20-16

at So. Methodist, L 33-3

Texas Christian, L 17-7

Wyoming, W 35-0

SCHEDULE

S4—SW Missouri State

S11—at Oklahoma State

S18—at Texas A&M

S25—at San Jose State

O2—Rice

O16—at Texas Christian

O23—Hawaii

O30—Fresno State

N6—at Texas-El Paso

N13—Northeast Louisiana

N20—Southern Methodist

Quarterbacks: John Fitzgerald, a three-year starter who completed 58 percent of his passes last year, has exhausted his eligibility. Junior Michael Wall has two years of experience, including five starts. Wall had better not get complacent, not with home-grown blue-chipper Josh Blankenship—the 1998

Oklahoma high school player of the year—arriving in August.

Running backs: There can't be a player in America more eager to get started than John Mosley, who burst out of three-year anonymity by rushing for 201 yards and one touchdown in the Hurricane's 1998 season-ending 35-0 rout of Wyoming. The yardage figure represented 22 percent of his career total. Needless to say, Mosley will be the man in the single-back attack. Ken Bohanon, who showed promise as a freshman, is second in the tailback line.

Receivers: Gone is last year's leading receiver, Wes Caswell, but back are the second- and third-leading receivers, Damon Savage and Jerrold Smith. Savage, a three-year starter, ranks sixth on the school's all-time receiving chart with 2,200 yards on 145 catches. He was a 1,000-yard receiver as a sophomore, then caught 42 passes for 488 yards and five touchdowns last season despite being hampered by a foot injury.

Offensive line: Starting tackles Matt Bing and Jason Mills are gone, but Tulsa has two solid starters returning in center Steve Schiller and guard Steve Wiedower. Still, the boat might sink without acceptable performance from new tackles Don Douglass and sophomore Kevin Shaffer. Also figuring in the mix is Anthony Ratica, who started seven games at guard last season.

Defensive line: Tulsa will have trouble replacing three starters from last year's line. End Chris Odom is the only returning starter. Tackle is a toss-up among junior college transfers Jeff Hewitt and Phil Franks and redshirt freshmen Bruce Thomas and Beau Gray. Junior Jake Lyon was a projected starter at tackle, but he suffered a broken leg in spring practice. Sophomore Drew McLaughlin, formerly a tight end, upgrades the team's quickness coming off the edge, but he's an experiment in progress.

Linebackers: The starters return intact with middle linebacker Jeremy McClure flanked by Ryan Cook and team-leading tackler Ashon Farley. Their life was made easier last year because of the effective front. They can't expect the same this season.

Secondary: Cornerback Todd Franz and free safety Taquan Gullett are returning starters, but Chris Miller has taken his job. Depth is such that another returning starter, strong safety Spencer Braggs, could be a back-

up after missing the spring with an injury. Junior safety Gavin Engle, a projected starter last year before a season-ending injury in preseason practice, is back.

Special teams: Hurricane kickers converted only 5 of 11 field-goal attempts last year. Sophomore Chris Earnest, who was 2 of 4 in 1998, needs to step up. Punter Casey Lipscomb needs to upgrade his rookie average of 38 yards.

Schedule: Tulsa should beat I-AA Southwest Missouri State in its opener. But Hurricane confidence is sure to ebb in matches with Oklahoma State and



Top target: Savage is key to the passing game. Plagued by injuries last season, he caught 24 fewer passes than he did in 1997.

Texas A&M. Should Tulsa drop its WAC opener at San Jose State, a downward spiral could result.

Coaching: Tulsa administrators went with their hearts. They honored integrity and community popularity, giving Dave Rader a four-year contract extension through the 2002 season. He's 48-74-1 in 11 years. The school says Rader has met every expectation—except for win-loss record.

Outlook: Tulsa is seeking its first winning season in eight years. Some semblance of momentum was generated in the upset of Wyoming in the 1998 season finale, and the contract extension for Rader afforded the program a measure of stability. The Hurricane could last until it's time to play Rice, Texas Christian and Fresno State in October. After that, November won't really matter.

GOLDEN HURRICANE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR Jerrold Smith	5-11 188	Sr. Donald Moten	5-11 185	So.
T Don Douglass	6-4 274	Sr. *Jake Stoetznier	6-5 300	Fr.
G Aaron Haddock	6-4 303	So. Anthony Ratica	6-5 282	Sr.
C Steve Schiller	6-5 288	Jr. Jimmy Jett	6-4 234	Sr.
G Steve Wiedower	6-3 282	Jr. Anthony Ratica	6-5 282	Sr.
T Kevin Shaffer	6-5 279	So. *Jason Daniluki	6-5 305	Fr.
TE Pete Muther	6-2 258	Sr. Kevin Isham	6-1 226	Jr.
WR Damon Savage	5-11 185	Sr. Andrew LeCrone	6-3 198	Sr.
QB Michael Wall	6-4 203	Jr. Robert Stephenson	6-2 220	So.
TB John Mosley	5-9 198	Sr. Ken Bohanon	6-1 244	So.
WR Willie Ponder	6-0 196	So. Jarrett Nixon	6-2 215	So.

DEFENSE

E Chris Odom	6-4 245	Jr. Mike Jones	6-0 239	Sr.
T Andy Taylor	6-1 270	Sr. *Beau Gray	6-2 280	Fr.
T Jeff Hewitt	6-2 265	Jr. Jake Lyon	6-4 277	Jr.
E Justin Dixon	6-1 220	So. Drew McLaughlin	6-3 230	So.
OLB Ryan Cook	6-3 215	So. Philip Abode	6-1 207	Jr.
MLB Jeremy McClure	6-2 234	Sr. Clay Johnson	6-0 227	Jr.
OLB Ashon Farley	5-11 222	Jr. *Brad Hawkins	6-2 230	Fr.
CB Sedrick Lusk	5-11 178	Jr. Frankie Johnson	5-11 188	Jr.
SS *Brett Butler	6-0 180	Fr. Gavin Engle	6-1 188	Jr.
FS Chris Miller	5-9 185	Jr. Taquan Gullett	5-10 190	Sr.
CB Todd Franz	6-1 190	Sr. *Keithan McCorry	5-11 177	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Chris Earnest	6-2 196	So. P Casey Lipscomb	6-0 218	So.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

8 Hawaii

Site: Honolulu
Coach: June Jones (first year)
Offensive coordinator: June Jones (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Greg McMackin (1st season)
Offensive scheme: run-and-shoot
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 7
Lettermen lost: 20
Lettermen returning: 44
Stadium: Aloha (turf, 50,000)
Last league title won: 1992
Last bowl appearance: 1992
1998 TSN rank: 112th
1998 record: 0-12; WAC Pacific: 0-8 (8th)

NATIONAL RANK
105

Quarterbacks: Dan Robinson figures to win the job by default after making 10 starts in 1998, the last in which he passed for 328 yards against Michigan. While he has good size (6-4, 213) and throwing ability, Robinson lacks the mobility preferred in first-year coach June Jones' run-and-shoot attack.

Another senior, Josh Skinner, runs better but doesn't throw as well.

Running backs: Only a blocking-oriented fullback is required in the run-and-shoot's four- and five-receiver alignments. That's why, for all of Charles Tharp's credentials—he would have entered his junior season 11th all time in school history in all-purpose yards—a sob couldn't be heard in spring camp when he left the program after being suspended for breaking a team rule. Avion Weaver should be fine after appearing in 23 games the last two years.

Receivers: Starters Wesley Morris and Eleu Kane exhausted their eligibility, which doesn't bode well in an offense that demands receiving depth to succeed. Dwight Carter, who was third on the team in receiving last year, is dependable. The team welcomes five recruits, notably Attrice Brooks (6-5, 210), who evokes Randy Moss comparisons. His eligibility is in question.

Offensive line: The Rainbows return six players who have made starts, including three-tackles Adrian Klemm and Kaulana Noa, and guard Dustin Owen—who each have lettered for three years. But this in no way guarantees dependable insulation for Robinson. Last season he was hit as many as 25 times in one game, and the team surrendered 31 sacks.

Defensive line: The good news is Jones was able to hire Greg McMackin as defensive coordinator, which was his position with the Seattle Seahawks until the staff was fired along with head coach Dennis Erickson. The bad news is McMackin inherits virtually intact a line that accounted for only seven of the team's 17 sacks last season. Tony Tuioti is a fine player, but he missed spring practice because of a back injury.

Linebackers: This unit is the strength of the defense, namely the senior combination of Jeff Ulbrich on the strong side and Matt Paul in the middle. Ulbrich's 1998 season was shortened when he sustained multiple ligament knee damage. Paul ranked second on the team in tackles with 100.

Secondary: Strong safety Anthony Smith is the team's best athlete and was the leading tackler in '98. Quincy LeJay should acquit himself at one corner, but there's little else to speak of. Junior college transfers Shawndel Tucker and Dedrick Miller need to adjust

quickly.

Special teams: Both the kicker and the punter need to re-establish themselves. Chad ShROUT's punting average plunged to 38.7 yards last year from 46.1 in 1997. Eric Hannum missed virtually all of last season because of a pulled hamstring after making 15 of 24 field-goal attempts, including a 47-yarder, in 1997.

Schedule: Don't be too quick to anoint Jones as the Polynesian Prophet if the Rainbows open 3-2 with home victories over Eastern Illinois, Boise State and Texas-El Paso. The Rainbows play nine games at Aloha



Rainbow warrior: Unless the defensive line shows vast improvement, Paul can count on making 100-plus tackles again this season.

Stadium this season, but that might not be enough to help an obviously bad team.

Coaching: It's a mystery why Jones spurned a big contract and the head coaching job with the San Diego Chargers to take over an impostor of a Division I-A program. It's also puzzling how Jones decided on his staff, a bizarre combination of high school, college and NFL coaches. Throw in a radio announcer, too.

Outlook: Jones, a former Hawaii quarterback (1973-74), has inspired renewed enthusiasm on the island, but the grim facts are these: The Rainbows have the nation's longest losing streak at 18 games, they haven't won a road game in the WAC since 1992, and it has been four years since their last road victory—at UNLV. If Jones turns around the program, it won't be soon.

1998 RESULTS

Arizona, L 27-6
 at Utah, L 30-21
 Arkansas State, L 20-0
 So. Methodist, L 28-0
 at San Diego St., L 35-13
 Brigham Young, L 31-9
 New Mexico, L 30-20
 at Texas-El Paso, L 30-13
 San Jose State, L 45-17
 at Fresno State, L 51-12
 Northwestern, L 47-21
 Michigan, L 48-17

SCHEDULE

S4—Southern California
 S11—Eastern Illinois
 S18—Boise State
 S25—at So. Methodist
 O2—Texas-El Paso
 O9—Rice
 O23—at Tulsa
 O30—Texas Christian
 N6—at San Jose State
 N13—Fresno State
 N20—Navy
 N27—Washington State

RAINBOWS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Dwight Carter	5-10	174	Sr.	*Ashley Lelle	6-3	170	Fr.
WR	Craig Stutzmann	5-11	187	So.	Ricky Lumford	5-8	174	Jr.
T	Adrian Klemm	6-5	322	Sr.	*Lui Fuata	6-2	280	Fr.
G	Andy Phillips	6-5	320	Sr.	Doug Gosling	6-2	307	Jr.
C	Dustin Owen	6-2	318	Sr.	Brian Smith	6-0	282	So.
G	Manly Kanoa	6-5	301	So.	*Chris Hogge	6-3	289	Fr.
T	Kaulana Noa	6-5	317	Sr.	Kynan Forney	6-4	282	Sr.
WR	Davey deLaura	5-9	177	Jr.	John Kirby	6-2	174	Sr.
WR	*Sean Butts	6-4	184	Fr.	Echo Charles	6-1	238	Sr.
QB	Dan Robinson	6-4	213	Sr.	Bronson Liana	6-1	198	So.
FB	Avion Weaver	5-10	220	Jr.	Robert Grant	6-0	179	So.

DEFENSE

E	Chris Brown	6-1	255	Fr.	Joe Correia	6-2	260	Jr.
T	Matt Elam	6-2	270	Sr.	Miles Garner	6-2	330	Jr.
T	Tony Tuioti	6-1	287	Sr.	*John Mannering	6-3	256	Fr.
E	Olen Rosehill	6-2	176	Jr.	Alika Brash	6-3	262	Jr.
OLB	Bobby Morgan	6-1	222	So.	Jeff Ulbrich	6-1	243	Sr.
MLB	Matt Paul	6-3	243	Sr.	Joaquin Avila	6-2	218	Jr.
OLB	Bo Espinoza	6-1	198	So.	Derek Zoller	5-11	250	So.
CB	Quincy LeJay	5-9	183	Sr.	Clyde Lewis	5-11	168	Jr.
SS	Anthony Smith	6-2	209	Jr.	Daniel Ho-Ching	5-11	187	Sr.
FS	Phil Austin	6-1	185	Sr.	*Marcus McCuin	6-1	189	Fr.
CB	Shawndel Tucker	5-10	175	So.	Nate Jackson	5-10	151	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Eric Hannum	6-3	181	Jr.	P	Chad ShROUT	6-1	231	Sr.
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*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

WAC

1998 INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING (RETURNING PLAYERS IN BOLD)

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Jamie Kimbrough, Fresno State	11	213	1,168	5.5	10	106.2
2. Basil Mitchell, Texas Christian	11	166	1,111	6.7	6	101.0
3. Rodnick Phillips, Southern Methodist, Sr.	12	239	1,115	4.7	9	92.9
4. Chad Richardson, Rice, Sr.	10	171	746	4.4	6	74.6
5. Kelsey Adams, Southern Methodist	12	147	802	5.5	4	66.8
6. LaDainian Tomlinson, Texas Christian, Jr.	11	144	717	5.0	8	65.2
7. Joseph Polk, Texas-El Paso	11	155	676	4.4	6	61.5
8. Paul Smith, Texas-El Paso, Sr.	11	149	660	4.4	2	60.0
9. Deonce Whitaker, San Jose State, Jr.	12	133	719	5.4	7	59.9
10. Charles Tharp, Hawaii, Jr.	12	146	679	4.7	2	56.6

PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Pts.
1. Billy Volek, Fresno State, Sr.	11	261	151	.579	3	1,973	7.6	10	131.7
2. Chris Kasteler, San Jose St., Sr.	10	221	115	.520	7	1,505	6.8	12	120.8
3. John Rayborn, Texas-El Paso	11	258	139	.539	6	1,641	6.4	12	118.0
4. Chris Sanders, SMU, Jr.	10	181	99	.547	7	1,050	5.8	6	106.6
5. Josh McCown, SMU, So.	9	99	46	.465	8	619	6.3	7	106.2
6. Dan Robinson, Hawaii, Sr.	12	354	164	.463	12	2,155	6.1	11	100.9
7. Chad Richardson, Rice, Sr.	10	91	34	.374	2	598	6.6	3	99.0
8. Jeff Dover, TCU, Sr.	11	60	27	.450	4	428	7.1	1	97.1
9. Rocky Perez, Texas-El Paso, Jr.	11	88	42	.477	4	521	5.9	1	92.1
10. Patrick Batteaux, TCU, Sr.	10	114	55	.483	7	519	4.6	1	77.1

RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Wes Cawell, Tulsa	9	52	598	4	5.8	11.5
2. Jimmy Carpenter, Texas-El Paso	11	52	691	1	4.7	13.3
3. Wesley Morris, Hawaii	12	51	692	4	4.3	13.6
4. Damon Savage, Tulsa, Sr.	10	42	488	5	4.2	11.6
5. Charlie Smith, Fresno State, So.	11	42	621	3	3.8	14.8
6. Dwight Carter, Hawaii, Sr.	12	40	567	3	3.3	14.2
7. Jamie Kimbrough, Fresno State	11	36	391	0	3.3	10.9
8. Oliver Newell, San Jose State	12	39	583	5	3.3	15.0
9. Albert Johnson, Southern Methodist	12	39	536	7	3.3	13.7
10. Jerrold Smith, Tulsa, Sr.	11	34	394	3	3.1	11.6

1998 TEAM STATS

OFFENSE

RUSHING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Rice (5)	257.2
2. Texas Christian (8)	239.1
3. Tulsa (44)	168.9
4. Texas-El Paso (46)	167.0
5. So. Methodist (47)	165.6
6. Fresno State (52)	153.7
7. San Jose State (78)	132.1
8. Hawaii (100)	109.4

PASSING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Tulsa (52)	212.1
2. Texas-El Paso (58)	206.8
3. Fresno State (63)	203.5
4. San Jose State (64)	202.9
5. Hawaii (77)	184.3
6. So. Methodist (95)	139.1
7. Texas Christian (109)	97.2
8. Rice (111)	60.6

TOTAL

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Tulsa (45)	381.0
2. Texas-El Paso (51)	373.8
3. Fresno State (62)	357.2
4. Texas Christian (72)	336.3
5. San Jose State (74)	335.0
6. Rice (87)	317.8
7. So. Methodist (94)	304.7
8. Hawaii (100)	293.7

DEFENSE

RUSHING

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. So. Methodist (38)	137.6
2. Fresno State (61)	159.2
3. Texas Christian (67)	163.0
4. Rice (88)	187.2
5. Hawaii (91)	189.1
6. Tulsa (92)	189.3
7. Texas-El Paso (105)	232.3
8. San Jose State (111)	259.2

PASS EFFICIENCY

School (NCAA rank)	Points
1. So. Methodist (12)	103.8
2. Tulsa (13)	103.8
3. Fresno State (31)	111.0
4. San Jose State (49)	117.7
5. Texas Christian (55)	120.1
6. Rice (66)	124.7
7. Texas-El Paso (87)	134.5
8. Hawaii (107)	151.0

TOTAL

School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. So. Methodist (14)	297.2
2. Texas Christian (40)	345.7
3. Tulsa (42)	346.7
4. Fresno State (51)	355.7
5. Rice (68)	381.9
6. Hawaii (78)	396.1
7. San Jose State (97)	430.4
8. Texas-El Paso (102)	442.7

RECRUITING

1. FRESNO STATE: The plums are offensive linemen Mike Painchaud, Antonio Sanchez, Justin Brown and Rene Arguelles, a group that would rank among the best in the Pac-10. The receivers corps was stocked with Bernard Berrian, Marque Davis and Maurice Washington. Aaron Cox, a 6-1, 235-pounder, was considered one of the top fullbacks in California. Coaches are excited about running back Kendall Edwards. Corey Neal is a dynamic athlete, and Marc Dailey is a hard-hitting line-backer.

2. SOUTHERN METHODIST: This is the Mustangs best class since the program was shut down by the NCAA in 1987-88 for violations. It features seven Texas state Top 100 prospects, including defensive lineman Warrie Birdwell and offensive lineman Sterling Harris. Other Texas blue-chippers are running back Kris Briggs, linebacker Khalid Beard, quarterback Kelan Luker and receivers Marcus Carter and Chris Cunningham. Defensive lineman Thornton Chandler, from Florida, also is highly regarded.

3. TEXAS CHRISTIAN: The Frogs signed 20 players, including 11 from schools within 50 miles of Fort Worth. This would suggest Dennis Franchione already has many high school coaches from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex in his pocket. A plum is quarterback Casey Printers, the District 5A offensive player of the year from DeSoto, Texas. Franchione landed the Brazier twins, defensive backs Jerome and Jerrod, of Fort Worth Dunbar High, who also were sought by Southern California, Texas A&M, Colorado, Kansas State and Oklahoma. Defensive end Donald Burrell is a good-looking prospect.

4. TULSA: Dave Rader—without a winning season since 1991—landed a balanced class that is considered big and fast. Rader raked six states for his bounty, but he had to go no farther than his backyard to land quarterback Josh Blankenship of Tulsa Union High. He was named the Oklahoma high school player of the year after passing for 3,119 yards and 40 touchdowns, with a completion percentage of .646. Offensive lineman Brock Anderson and linebacker Jeremy Armstead also are promising.

5. SAN JOSE STATE: Dave Baldwin feels he met his primary objective of upgrading speed at every position with a 25-man class dominated by 15 junior college transfers. Baldwin, a former junior college coach, signed four transfers for immediate help on the offensive line. That was a departure for Baldwin, who concentrated on signing prep offensive linemen in his first two years with the Spartans. LaMons Walker is a gem among the new linemen.

6. RICE: The Owls signed 17, including 11 defensive players, in a class that Ken Hatfield says is "fast and tough, and that will help us compete for a championship." The emphasis was on the defensive line—Chris DeMunbrun (6-4, 205), Paxton Corder (6-3, 255) and Brandon Green (6-3, 220) from Texas, Ross Lassley (6-3, 250) from Oklahoma and Jonathan Chism (6-3, 245) from Arkansas. Quarterbacks Jeremy Hurd and Jeff Vanover may have big futures.

7. TEXAS-EL PASO: Recruiting coordinator Troy Reffett says, "This is one of the first years we were able to sign big, athletic kids who also possess a tremendous amount of speed." Texas-El Paso landed the Kerr brothers—defensive linemen Daniel (6-5, 230) and Chris (6-5, 232)—from Permian High in Odessa, Texas. Both are expected to switch positions. California running back Rovann Cleveland (6-1, 225) should make a quick impact.

8. HAWAII: Predictably, it was a difficult assignment for new coach June Jones, who was coaching the San Diego Chargers in December during the height of recruiting season. That virtually guaranteed tradition would hold true, with mainlanders plucking the best players off the island state. California linebacker Pisa Tinoisamoa, arguably the most talented recruit in Hawaii history, was sentenced to 270 days in a youth correctional facility for his January conviction on two counts of felony assault one day after he signed his letter-of-intent.

SCOUTING WAC

The screen is fuzzy through no fault of commissioner Karl Benson, who has raked the nation in vain to achieve some semblance of security for the gasping Western Athletic Conference through television and bowl contracts. The new Mountain West Conference, comprising eight schools that defected from the WAC, almost effortlessly struck an eight-year pact worth nearly \$50 million with ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC. Benson had to settle for undivulged crumbs from Fox. However, the WAC's once-grim bowl outlook improved, as guaranteed tickets were booked with two new bowls: the Mardi Gras Bowl in Mobile, Ala., which begins this season, and the Silicon Valley Bowl in San Jose, Calif., which will begin in 2000. The WAC champ will play in the Las Vegas Bowl this season before that game switches allegiances to the Mountain West.

Ascending: Texas Christian. Leaping from 1-10 to 7-5, the Horned Frogs' improvement last season under first-year coach Dennis Franchione tied Louisville for the best in the country. Amazing.

Descending: Hawaii. In stretching their losing streak to a Division I-A-worst 18

heading to Alabama.

Biggest shoes to fill: Paris Gaines, who is considerably bigger, actually couldn't fit into the shoes of Jaime Kimbrough, the tailback who closed his Fresno State career by being named the 1998 WAC Pacific Division offensive player of the year. What a big step it will be for Gaines.

Most overrated player: Rice quarterback Chad Richardson. It requires a special wishbone quarterback to guide his team to a league championship. He's good but not special, so no gold to the Owls.

Most underrated player: Fresno State quarterback Billy Volek. Here's a guy who has made 23 starts in the last two years and been intercepted only nine times in 329 passes. Nobody knows about him, but they soon will.

Best coach: Franchione. How's this for a two-year bonanza: In 1997 he directed New Mexico to its first bowl in 36 years; in 1998 he took Texas Christian to its first bowl victory in 41 years. What's next? The Sugar?

Best staff: Fresno State. When former Bulldogs assistant Pat Hill returned to Fresno State to become the coach in 1997, he brought from the NFL a national network of contacts. He has parlayed that into an aggressive, hungry staff bent on making a difference in Fresno. They're succeeding.

Coach on the hot seat: Tulsa's Dave Rader. He got a four-year contract extension after last season, a reprieve by a compassionate administration. Don't be fooled. Many in Oklahoma find his 48-74-1 record quite unacceptable.

Odds and ends: Rarely has a bowl victory had such an impact on a coach and his program as Texas Christian's 28-19 upset of Southern California in the Sun Bowl. School chancellor Michael Ferrari, obviously unfazed by the fact that the Horned Frogs' 7-5 record was only their sixth winning season in 33 years, responded by awarding a seven-year contract worth up to \$900,000 annually to Franchione. Having just arrived from New Mexico, Franchione had five years remaining on his previous contract that paid him about \$450,000 a season. "It's a statement that we feel we not only had to make but wanted to make," says Ferrari, obviously tickled about the program's turnaround from 1-10 in '97. "For us to have a football program where our commitment is just marginal, if you will, in this particular period of time just won't do it." ... Fresno State's Hill has convinced his administration that the program has one means to



Borrowed time? Rader has had one winning season in 11 years. The reprieve he received could be short-lived if Tulsa shows little improvement.

become a national player—face non-conference heat on the road. In his first two years, the Bulldogs visited Oklahoma State, Oregon, Colorado and Texas Tech; this season, they'll go to Oregon State and UCLA; and they'll open 2000 at Ohio State and UCLA. "If you like being called a mid-major program all the time, as we have been, then play a mid-major schedule," says Hill, an assistant on Jim Sweeney's Fresno State staff from 1985 to 1989. "If you want to become a major college program, then you've got to play a major college schedule. They're not going to consider the WAC a major college league, so you've got to play a major college non-league schedule. I don't look at these as body-bag games; I look at these as games we've got to win. And if we don't win, we'll keep playing them until we do, but we're not going to avoid anybody." ... Add Hill: His two-year conference record of 10-6 is the Bulldogs' best back-to-back mark since they went 12-4 and shared titles in their first two seasons in the league, 1992 and '93. ... Wes Suan is Hawaii's sixth offensive coordinator in six years. He follows Don Lindsey ('98), Wally English ('97), Guy Benjamin ('96), Bill Souza ('95) and Paul Johnson ('94). ... How shameful that Southern Methodist will close its 36-year association with the Cotton Bowl with a November 13 non-conference sleeper against I-AA Cal State-Northridge. In 2000, the Mustangs will move into on-campus, 32,000-seat Gerald J. Ford Stadium. ... San Jose State athletic director Chuck Bell, told that the Mountain West Conference might add Fresno State in two years, snapped: "In 24 hours, we would have Nevada in the league."

—Andy Boogaard

UNIT RANKINGS	OFFENSE			DEFENSE			Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	Line	Receivers	Line	LBs	DBs		
FRESNO STATE	1	7	1	3	2	3	3	1
HAWAII	7	6	7	5	6	7	6	8
RICE	5	2	8	4	8	2	4	3
SAN JOSE ST.	4	8	2	7	5	8	7	6
SO. METHODIST	3	1	5	6	1	5	5	4
TEX. CHRISTIAN	2	3	6	1	3	1	1	2
TEXAS-EL PASO	6	5	4	2	7	6	2	5
TULSA	8	4	3	8	4	4	8	7

games last year, the Rainbows lost by an average score of 35-12. Fred vonAppen has been replaced by June Jones, both of whom asked the same question upon their arrival: "Why did they ever fire Bob Wagner?" He was responsible for the program's last winning season: 11-2 in 1992.

Best matchup: Texas Christian at Fresno State, October 2. Franchione, as coach of New Mexico, made three appearances at Bulldog Stadium, winning once. Never did those games have championship implications. This one will, with two quick, veteran defenses dictating the tempo.

Bowl bound: Fresno State and Texas Christian. The Bulldogs will go to Las Vegas as the WAC champion for their first postseason gig in five years. The Horned Frogs will extend their season again by

MID-AMERICAN



CONFERENCE
RANK

10

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY DOUG ZALESKI, MUNCIE (IND.) STAR PRESS

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

		Conference			Overall						
		W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L	Pts.	Opp.				
East	Marshall	8-1	262	147	12-1	405	236	101-25	.802	4,433	2,077
	Miami	7-1	249	119	10-1	317	142	59-35-5	.596	2,400	1,778
	Bowling Green	5-3	258	189	5-6	292	312	56-40-4	.560	2,191	2,013
	Ohio	5-3	224	203	5-6	269	303	29-68-3	.290	1,731	2,481
	Akron	2-6	230	236	4-7	265	299	33-64-2	.333	1,844	2,814
	Kent	0-8	112	336	0-11	149	454	13-85-1	.131	1,627	3,412
	*Buffalo	-	-	-	4-7	315	340	30-66	.313	2,085	2,980
West	Toledo	6-3	181	124	7-5	229	216	66-33-3	.647	2,530	2,080
	Western Michigan	5-3	276	229	7-4	360	312	58-39-2	.586	2,248	2,112
	Central Michigan	5-3	187	163	6-5	229	253	50-46-5	.495	2,546	2,402
	Eastern Michigan	3-5	186	237	3-8	216	309	31-67-1	.313	1,968	2,661
	Northern Illinois	2-6	126	194	2-9	160	329	27-72	.273	1,873	2,976
	Ball State	1-7	116	230	1-10	150	343	52-47-2	.525	2,000	1,962
	*New member for 1999										

IN A NUTSHELL

		SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES non-conference, conference
East	1. MARSHALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a go-to wideout. With 10 starters back, only a NT is needed. 	QB Chad Pennington TB Doug Chapman	FS Rogers Beckett T Giradie Mercer	Sept. 4 at Clemson Oct. 2 at Miami
	2. MIAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need passing balance to great ground game. Two standout safeties have to be replaced. 	TB Travis Prentice WR Trevor Gaylor	LB Dustin Cohen CB Brandon Godsey	Sept. 4 at Northwestern Oct. 2 vs. Marshall
	3. AKRON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing, line are good, but tailbacks untested. Secondary must mature quickly. 	G Dan Wessman QB James Washington	SS Nate Johnson NT Jermaine Williams	Sept. 18 vs. Temple Nov. 6 at Miami
	4. BOWLING GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QB must take the next development step. Line must dig in while new starters mature. 	T Chad McCarthy WR Kurt Gerling	FS Chad Long LB Joe O'Neill	Sept. 4 at Pittsburgh Oct. 9 vs. Miami
	5. OHIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing game is a sore spot. New line has to be tough vs. the run. 	C Mike Varone RB Raynald Ray	P Dave Zastudil LB Leigh Barbour	Sept. 4 at Minnesota Nov. 13 vs. Miami
	6. KENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran line must protect QB Jose Davis. Lack of depth at DB, line must be masked. 	QB Jose Davis TE Jason Gavazza	E Brad Hartman SS Geoff Betts	Sept. 18 at Pittsburgh Nov. 13 at Akron
	7. BUFFALO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good line, backs mean ground game is stout. LBs must carry a big load. 	WR Drew Haddad T Joe Hattendorf	LB Chris Shelly SS Eric Pipkins	Nov. 6 vs. Hofstra Oct. 30 at Kent
West	1. WESTERN MICHIGAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must replace 1,000-yard rusher Darnell Fields. Strong LBs and DBs must cover for line. 	QB Tim Lester WR Steve Neal	FS William Reed CB Eric Nunlee	Sept. 18 at Missouri Nov. 20 at Toledo
	2. TOLEDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a QB is top priority. Front seven will be among MAC's best. 	T Colin Westrich TE Mike Bilik	LB Jason Lamar T Sameer Hamood	Sept. 2 vs. Syracuse Nov. 20 vs. W. Michigan
	3. CENTRAL MICHIGAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground game is good, but wideouts needed. Looking for inside LBs to stuff the run. 	TB Eric Flowers T Matt Brayton	FS Brian Leigeb CB Tedaro France	Sept. 18 at Purdue Nov. 6 vs. Toledo
	4. BALL STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to find a new quarterback, tailback. Must adjust from a 4-3 to a 4-4 set. 	WR Adrian Reese QB Clay Walters	LB Ernest Pressley LB Larry Davis	Sept. 4 at Indiana Sept. 18 vs. Toledo
	5. NORTHERN ILLINOIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustaining drives may be difficult for line. Linebacking corps is being rebuilt. 	WR Justin McCareins T Ryan Diem	SS Donnavan Carter FS Jermaine Hampton	Sept. 11 at Vanderbilt Oct. 9 vs. Ball State
	6. EASTERN MICHIGAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new tackles must emerge. More turnovers are needed. 	QB Walt Church WR Jermaine Sheffield	CB Lincoln Dupree S Donald McCall	Sept. 11 at Michigan State Oct. 9 vs. W. Michigan

1 Marshall

Site: Huntington, W.Va.
Coach: Bob Pruett (37-4, 3 years)
Offensive coordinator: Marty Galbraith (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Tim Billings (1st season)
Offensive scheme: Pro set
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 3
Lettermen lost: 9
Lettermen returning: 60
Stadium: Marshall (turf, 30,000)
Last league title won: 1998
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1997
1998 TSN rank: 26th
1998 record: 12-1 (beat Louisville in Motor City Bowl); Mid-American East: 8-1 (tie 1st, beat Toledo in MAC championship game)

1998 RESULTS

at Akron, W 27-16
 Troy State, W 42-12
 at South Carolina, W 24-21
 at E. Michigan, W 26-23
 Miami, Ohio, W 31-17
 at Ohio, W 30-23
 Kent, W 42-7
 Ball State, W 42-10
 at Bowling Green, L 34-13
 Central Michigan, W 28-0
 Wofford, W 29-27
 Toledo, W 34-14
 Louisville, W 49-29

SCHEDULE

S4—at Clemson
 S11—Liberty
 S18—Bowling Green
 S25—Temple
 O2—at Miami, Ohio
 O16—Toledo
 O23—at Buffalo
 O30—Northern Illinois
 N6—at Kent
 N13—at Western Michigan
 N20—Ohio

NATIONAL RANK
25

Offensive strengths: There's a lot to like about the Marshall offense, which has been among the MAC's most potent in the two seasons the Thundering Herd have played in the league. Quarterback Chad Pennington was the conference leader in passing efficiency the last two years with a 151.9 rating in

1997 and 152.9 last season. He's the most accurate passer in the league and has a great understanding of what it takes to excel at the position. He enters the season with more than 10,000 passing yards and a 34-6 record in games he has played. Tailback Doug Chapman is bidding to become the first Marshall player to rush for 1,000 or more yards in four straight seasons, and Llow Turner provides a quality complement at the position. Four starters return on the line, including tackle Mike Guillems, an All-MAC first-team pick. That should allow the offense to continue to perform at an efficient pace.

Offensive weaknesses: In the last two seasons, the Herd have lost All-MAC first-team receivers Randy Moss and LaVorn Colclough. There's a surplus of talent at the position, but someone has to step up as the No. 1 guy. Senior Nate Poole, who had 48 catches for 616 yards last year, is the most likely candidate to elevate his game and become one of the conference's elite receivers. The only vacancy on the line likely will be filled by a player who has yet to play in a Division I-A game. The candidates are junior college transfer Scott Harper and redshirt freshman Steve Sciuillo.

Defensive strengths: Miami traditionally has had the best defense in the MAC, but Marshall could unseat the RedHawks in that department. The Thundering Herd return 15 of their top 16 tacklers. Tackle Giradie Mercer is a tough matchup for offensive lines. He's coming off a 96-tackle season, including a team-high 16 for losses. Ron Puggi is an all-league candidate at end. Marshall's physical line play last season helped it lead the MAC in rushing defense. Linebacker John Grace was a key factor in that success, leading the team with 143 tackles. Cornerback Danny Derricott is one of the biggest impact players on defense in the MAC. He was involved in plays that saved the outcome or turned the tide in Marshall's favor in five games last season. Derricott had six interceptions, and his fumble recovery for a touchdown ignited the Herd to a victory over Toledo in the MAC championship game. Free safety Rogers Beckett is one of the best defensive backs in the country.

Defensive weaknesses: There aren't many, but the Herd must fill the nose guard position. Jimmy Parker started 10 games at end last season in place of injured Paul Toviessi. With Toviessi back this season,

Parker has bulked up to 280 pounds and could move inside.

Special teams: Billy Malashevich is back after kicking winning field goals in the final seconds against South Carolina and Eastern Michigan last season. Four-year punter Chris Hanson probably will be replaced by true freshman Curtis Head. A replacement also needs to be found for punt returner Damone Williams, a fearless performer who did not make a fair catch last season.

Key to success: Bob Pruett, entering his fourth sea-



Bring 'em on: Pennington proved last year that he didn't need Moss to excel; his QB rating improved. Now he'll be without Colclough.

son as Marshall coach, needs to keep his team on track in a conference that it might be outgrowing. Marshall has won 14 of 16 MAC games, two conference championships and one bowl game the last two years. There's no reason to believe that trend won't continue—unless the Herd become complacent.

Outlook: Only Tennessee (23) has won more games in the past two years than Marshall (22), which has defined elite football during its two seasons in the MAC and become a blueprint for other schools to copy. In addition, the depth of the Thundering Herd's talent is unmatched in the MAC. They have 19 starters returning and quality players in backup roles who could start at a lot of other schools in the conference. It's no surprise that Marshall is the prohibitive favorite to win its third straight MAC championship.

THUNDERING HERD DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	WR	WR	WR	WR	WR	WR	WR	WR	WR
Lanier Washington	6-2	190	Jr.	Brad Weldon	5-11	190	Jr.		
Mike Guillems	6-5	305	Sr.	Scott Harper	6-6	300	Jr.		
Chris Scheuch	6-7	340	Jr.	*K.J. Greer	6-3	280	Fr.		
Jason Starkey	6-5	260	Sr.	Shaun Saunders	6-3	280	Fr.		
Jimmy Cabellos	6-4	310	Jr.	Irv Dotson	6-5	295	Sr.		
*Steve Sciuillo	6-4	280	Fr.	Jimmy Meeks	6-4	305	So.		
Gregg Kellett	6-3	230	So.	Brad Hammon	6-3	235	Sr.		
James Williams	5-11	185	Sr.	John Cooper	6-5	200	Jr.		
Nate Poole	6-3	185	Sr.	David Foye	6-2	200	Jr.		
Chad Pennington	6-3	220	Sr.	Byron Leftwich	6-5	205	So.		
Doug Chapman	5-10	220	Sr.	Llow Turner	6-0	185	Sr.		

DEFENSE

E	T	NG	E	OLB	MLB	OLB	CB	CB	FS	CB
Ron Puggi	Giradie Mercer	Dewayne Lewis	Carlos Smith	Andre O'Neal	Max Yates	John Grace	Maurice Hines	Dwayne Hodges	Rogers Beckett	Danny Derricott
6-4	6-2	6-2	6-5	6-2	6-3	5-11	5-10	5-10	6-3	5-11
245	285	290	255	235	235	205	175	175	205	170
Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	Sr.	So.	Sr.	Jr.	Jr.	Sr.	Jr.
Ralph Street	Antony Beckett	Jimmy Parker	Paul Toviessi	George Miller	Todd Buggs	Alonzo Jones	*Chris Crocker	Michael Owens	Larry Davis	Fardan Carter
6-1	6-3	6-4	6-7	6-1	5-11	6-1	5-11	6-0	6-1	5-10
240	265	280	260	215	218	225	175	195	180	185
Jr.	Jr.	Jr.	Jr.	Jr.	So.	Jr.	Fr.	So.	So.	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	P
Billy Malashevich	Curtis Head
5-11	5-10
190	168
Sr.	Fr.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

2 Miami

NATIONAL
RANK
34**Offensive strengths:**

"Touchdown" Travis Prentice has lived up to his nickname with a flourish. He enters the season tied for fourth all-time on the NCAA's

rushing touchdown list with 56. He is on pace to break NCAA career records for points and touchdowns, which Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams set in 1998. Prentice should break the MAC rushing record of 4,368 yards; he enters the season with 3,937. He is the top returning rusher in the nation, with 1,787 yards last season. With all five starting linemen returning, Prentice should have a banner season. Receiver Trevor Gaylor could be a key component in the passing game, especially if defenses clog the line of scrimmage to try to stop Prentice.

Offensive weaknesses:

Quarterback Mike Bath has to become more efficient at passing. He was serviceable as a first-year starter last season, and new coach Terry Hoepfner thought Bath improved during spring practice. The RedHawks need to develop players at tight end to give the offense the kind of diversity

Hoepfner wants.

Defensive strengths: Outside linebacker Dustin Cohen has led Miami in tackles each of the last two seasons. An impact player, he had 146 tackles and four interceptions, two of which he returned for touchdowns, last season. The line was the biggest question mark on defense last year, but it turned into an asset because of its depth. The leader is tackle Andy Aracri, who made 43 tackles, most among the team's linemen.

Defensive weaknesses: The RedHawks lost great players in outside linebacker Jojuan Armour, inside linebacker Drew Purcell and strong safety Paris Johnson. It isn't likely that any of their replacements can step in and be as strong. Miami lacks depth at safety.

Special teams: Several players are candidates to replace John Scott, the all-time leading kicker at Miami. Punter Kent McCullough, a former All-

MAC first-team pick, had almost 40 percent (23 of 62) of his punts fall inside the 20-yard line last season.

Key to success: After losing several impact players, many of the newcomers at the defensive positions have huge shoes to fill.

Outlook: The RedHawks have lost just three league games in the last two seasons, but they haven't been able to overcome Marshall in the East Division. Miami probably will be disappointed again this season.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Northwestern
S11—at West Virginia
S18—E. Michigan
S25—at C. Michigan
O2—Marshall
O9—at Bowling Green
O16—at Kent
O30—Cincinnati
N6—Akron
N13—at Ohio
N20—Buffalo

REDHAWKS DATA

Site: Oxford, Ohio
Coach: Terry Hoepfner (first year)
1998 record: 10-1; Mid-American East (7-1, tie 1st)
Field Yager (grass, 30,012)
Last league title won: 1986

PROJECTED STARTERS
OFFENSE

WR	Sly Johnson	5-9	182	Jr.
T	Alex Sulistad	6-5	297	Jr.
G	Bob Beinecke	6-4	275	Sr.
C	Chris Kalafatis	6-4	297	Sr.
G	Chris Huelsman	6-5	291	Sr.
T	Joe Costello	6-5	314	So.
TE	Mike Sullivan	6-5	253	Jr.
WR	Trevor Gaylor	6-3	189	Sr.
QB	Mike Bath	6-1	214	Jr.
TB	Travis Prentice	6-2	228	Sr.
FB	Marcus Smith	6-1	238	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Bob Petrovic	6-4	246	So.
T	James Bratcher	6-2	285	Sr.
T	Andy Aracri	6-1	273	Jr.
E	Joe Lyman	6-1	258	Jr.
OLB	Dustin Cohen	6-4	224	Sr.
MLB	Mike Yeager	6-4	222	Sr.
OLB	Mike Montgomery	6-3	233	Jr.
CB	Michael Adams	5-8	182	So.
SS	Rod Clark	5-8	192	So.
FS	Bryan McCullough	6-0	196	Sr.
CB	Brandon Godsey	5-11	200	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Andy Brumbergs	6-4	205	Sr.
P	Kent McCullough	6-2	212	Jr.

3 Akron

NATIONAL
RANK
76**Offensive strengths:**

Akron achieved a good balance between the run and pass last season with James "Butchie" Washington controlling the offense at quarter-

back. Even though he just scratched the surface of his effectiveness, Washington broke 11 school passing records. Lavel Bailey was a nice surprise as a pass catcher, and the Washington-to-Bailey connection could be one of the conference's best this year. Three starters return on the line, including guard Dan Wessman.

Offensive weaknesses: Akron lost its top rusher, Greg Lomax. Tony McCray, Bo Hunter and Jimmie Gray all will get a shot to win the starting tailback role. The trio lacks experience (a combined 71 rushing attempts last season), but they're the Zips' best hope in the backfield. Jake Schifino will try to take up the slack as the No. 2 receiver, replacing Jon Eaton, who moved to free safety.

Defensive strengths: Akron gave up a lot of yards last year but proved it could be stout when it had to be. The Zips allowed 21 points or fewer in four of their eight confer-

ence games. Strong safety Nate Johnson, who played outside linebacker last year and is moving to strong safety, showed big-play ability.

Defensive weaknesses: The Zips were too easy to run against last season, giving up almost 200 yards a game on the ground. The six returning players in the defensive front seven have to become more aggressive. Akron has reshuffled its secondary to make up for the loss of standouts Andre McCray at strong safety and George Germany at free safety. How well Nate Johnson and Jon Eaton fill in at those positions will be important to the team's development.

Special teams: The big concern is to find a replacement for punter Mike Hayes, who led the MAC in punting average in 1997. Mike Delaney, the likely replacement, has yet to kick in a game.

Key to success: The Zips need to learn how to perform in pressure situations, and that could lead to more victories. They appeared on the verge last season, but each step forward was followed by a step backward.

Outlook: Lee Owens, Akron's coach for the past four years, felt the Zips were on the verge of a breakthrough each of the last two seasons, but something always impeded their progress. The Zips clearly aren't in the class of division foes Marshall and Miami, and they haven't been able to distinguish themselves from Ohio and Bowling

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Penn State
S11—at Buffalo
S18—Temple
S25—at E. Michigan
O2—at Ball State
O9—Ohio
O16—Bowling Green
O23—at Navy
O30—W. Michigan
N6—at Miami, OHIO
N13—Kent

ZIPS DATA

Site: Akron, Ohio
Coach: Lee Owens (12-32, 4 years)
1998 record: 4-7;
Mid-American East: 2-6 (5th)
Field: Rubber Bowl (turf, 35,202)
Last league title won: none

PROJECTED STARTERS
OFFENSE

WR	Jake Schifino	6-2	200	So.
T	Steve Hale	6-3	325	Sr.
G	Brock Knisely	6-2	260	Sr.
C	Scott Smith	6-4	275	So.
G	Dan Wessman	6-2	290	Sr.
T	Jeff Grzeskowiak	6-5	310	So.
TE	Tim Ritley	6-3	245	So.
WR	Lavel Bailey	5-10	180	Jr.
QB	James Washington	6-0	210	Jr.
RB	Jimmie Gray	5-7	165	Jr.
FB	Raschi Culler	5-10	230	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Ade Edwards	6-4	255	Jr.
E	Derek Wilborn	6-0	225	Jr.
T	Ron Smith	6-4	285	Sr.
T	Jason Wiggins	6-4	260	Jr.
OLB	George Cameron	6-0	222	Sr.
LB	Louis Mackey	6-2	215	Sr.
LB	James Cochran	6-2	220	Sr.
CB	Dwight Smith	5-11	200	Jr.
SS	Nate Johnson	6-1	195	Sr.
FS	Jon Eaton	6-2	200	Sr.
CB	Rich Reliford	5-9	180	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Zac Derr	5-8	150	So.
P	Mike Delaney	6-2	215	So.

4 Bowling Green

**NATIONAL
RANK
83**

Offensive strengths:

With all five starting linemen returning, the Falcons should have one of the top rushing attacks in the conference. Behind that line,

headed by 32-game starter Chad McCarthy at right tackle, Bowling Green improved from 107th in the nation in rushing in 1997 to 13th last year. Tailback Godfrey Lewis broke the school rushing record for a freshman last season, and Steve Holmes provides a fine complement at the position. Kurt Gerling, a big target, emerged as a dangerous receiving threat as a redshirt freshman in 1998.

Offensive weaknesses: The quarterback position was unsettled last season; coach Gary Blackney waffled between Bob Niemet and Ricky Schneider. With Niemet gone, the job falls to Schneider, although redshirt freshman Andy Sahn could force himself into the picture. Blackney says Schneider has the best supporting cast of any Bowling Green quarterback since Ryan Henry in 1994.

Defensive strengths: Four experienced players return at linebacker,

including senior Joe O'Neill, who led the team in tackles last season while playing both in the middle and on the outside. When O'Neill moved outside, Chris Della Vella went to the middle without any drop off in production. D.J. Durkin is the anchor of the line.

Defensive weaknesses: After losing three starters on the line, there is concern about the physical presence up front. With sophomore safeties Chad Long and Karl Rose in the secondary, lack of experience could be a problem. Former wide receivers Will Sullivan and Matt Bunsey and former tailback Ken Dobbs are among those battling for the cornerback spots.

Special teams: Jason Strasser, who made 11 of 12 field-goal attempts and converted 31 extra-point attempts last season, is back. Redshirt freshman Brian Poltrone will try to replace punter Andy Pollock, whose 44.9-yard average ranked sixth in the nation.

Key to success: Consistent play at quarterback. Schneider has experience, having played in 15 games the last two years, but he hasn't given coaches reason to trust him.

Outlook: The Falcons have 15 starters returning from a team that won four of its last five games last season, including a 34-13 whipping of Mid-American champion Marshall. After struggling in 1996 and '97, Bowling Green could continue its surge this season.

*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Pittsburgh
S11—Tennessee Tech
S18—at Marshall
S25—at Kent
O2—Toledo
O9—Miami, Ohio
O16—at Akron
O23—at Ohio
O30—C. Michigan
N13—Ball State
N20—at C. Florida

FALCONS DATA

Site: Bowling Green, Ohio

Coach: Gary Blackney (53-35-2, 8 years)

1998 record: 5-6; Mid-American East: 5-3 (tie 3rd)

Field: Perry (grass, 30,599)

Last league title won: 1992

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Robert Redd	5-11	175	So.
T	Rob Fehrman	6-7	295	Jr.
G	Mark Kautzman	6-4	290	Sr.
C	Doug Dorley	6-4	295	Sr.
G	Eric Cuel	6-2	280	Jr.
T	Chad McCarthy	6-4	280	Sr.
TE	Kevin Steinke	6-3	250	Sr.
WR	Kurt Gerling	6-2	185	So.
QB	Ricky Schneider	6-2	210	Jr.
RB	Godfrey Lewis	5-9	185	So.
FB	Brent Martin	6-1	225	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	D.J. Durkin	6-2	245	Jr.
T	Malcolm Robinson	6-4	280	So.
NG	Brandon Hicks	6-1	250	Jr.
T	Ryan Wingrove	6-3	240	So.
OLB	Khary Campbell	6-1	215	So.
MLB	Chris Della Vella	6-1	225	So.
OLB	Joe O'Neill	6-2	225	Sr.
CB	Ken Dobbs	6-0	170	Jr.
SS	Chad Long	6-0	185	So.
FS	Karl Rose	6-0	180	So.
CB	Will Sullivan	5-9	170	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jason Strasser	6-2	175	Sr.
P	Brian Poltrone	6-2	220	Fr.

5 Ohio

**NATIONAL
RANK
108**

Offensive strengths:

Ohio has strong building blocks for its line in center Mike Varone and tackle Steve Gaydosz. Varone, who will be starting for the third

season, is an aggressive blocker whose quickness off the ball makes him effective on running plays. Gaydosz combines strength with athleticism; he has greatly improved his blocking the last two years. Raynald Ray's quickness should help him produce at the Z-back position.

Offensive weaknesses: The team lost the top two rushers in school history: tailback Steve Hookfin and quarterback Kareem Wilson. If he becomes academically eligible, 1998 Prop 48 Wiz White could be a force in the backfield. Ohio needs to get more passing production from its quarterback. Dan Jordan has the inside track to win the starting job, but his experience is limited. Six players will compete for the job in fall camp. Guard is a key position for the running game, and the team must rely on two players who are relatively new to the position. Nick Glowacki excels in run-blocking, and Eric Davis started at tackle in 1998.

Defensive strengths: Speedy Leigh Barbour had 90 tackles and three sacks last season at outside linebacker. Free safety David Walker had 83 tackles in his first year as a starter.

Defensive weaknesses: The team has to find replacements for several positions in the front eight. The key might be at nose guard, where four-year starter Geno Walsh is gone. Lamar Martin, the likely replacement, has some leadership qualities to go with great quickness and agility. The Bobcats have to put their offense in better position by forcing turnovers. They recovered only eight fumbles last year, one more than the conference low, and intercepted 11 passes.

Special teams: True freshman Kevin Kerr will be the kicker. He kicked a 57-yard field goal in a high school state championship game and had 21 field goals—three short of the national record—his senior season. Dave Zastudil led the MAC in punting last season with a 45.3 average.

Key to success: A consistent offense. The Bobcats lost a large share of their rushing offense, and they never could pass effectively. Suddenly they have to develop both aspects of the offense.

Outlook: The Bobcats must fill major holes on both sides of the ball to stay near the top of the East Division. There are too many questions to assume they can maintain their recent MAC success (11-5 the past two seasons).

*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Minnesota
S11—Northern Iowa
S18—at Ohio State
S25—Buffalo
O2—Kent
O9—at Akron
O16—at E. Michigan
O23—Bowling Green
O30—at Ball State
N13—Miami, Ohio
N20—at Marshall

BOBCATS DATA

Site: Athens

Coach: Jim Grobe (21-23-1, 4 years)

1998 record: 5-6; Mid-American East: 5-3 (tie 3rd)

Field: Peden (grass, 20,000)

Last league title won: 1968

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Derrick Jenkins	5-7	180	Sr.
T	David Patton	6-8	340	So.
G	Nick Glowacki	6-6	310	So.
C	Mike Varone	6-3	270	Sr.
G	Zach Holt	6-3	275	Jr.
T	Steve Gaydosz	6-3	260	Sr.
TE	Draw Dwyer	6-4	240	Sr.
WR	Raynald Ray	5-11	200	Jr.
QB	Dan Jordan	6-1	190	So.
RB	*Chad Brinker	5-11	185	Fr.
FB	Joe Fondale	6-0	210	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Mike Fox	6-4	260	So.
NG	John Kraus	6-2	270	Sr.
E	Art Adams	6-4	250	Jr.
OLB	Leigh Barbour	6-2	215	Sr.
ILB	Mark Calgato	6-3	240	Sr.
ILB	Tom Weillbacher	5-10	215	So.
OLB	Greg Baskin	6-2	230	So.
CB	Donnie White	5-10	190	Jr.
SS	Chris London	5-11	200	So.
FS	David Walker	5-10	175	Sr.
CB	Lance Fields	5-10	190	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	*Nick Mannella	6-0	170	Fr.
P	Dave Zastudil	6-4	220	So.

6 Kent

NATIONAL
RANK
109**Offensive strengths:**

Is quarterback Jose Davis an asset or a liability? Two years ago as a sophomore, he set a school record for touchdown passes with 32.

Last year he threw more interceptions (10) than touchdown passes (nine). Tailback DeMarlo Rozier struggled in the first half of last season as a freshman. He rebounded late in the season, rushing for 444 of his 613 yards in the last six games. Coaches are hopeful that tailback Chante Murphy will develop to provide some help in the running game.

Offensive weaknesses: The Golden Flashes

suffered a huge loss in their passing game with the graduation of receiver Eugene Baker. Jurren Kelly, who started 11 games as a freshman in '98, and Josh Bostick, a sophomore, have to increase their production. Inconsistent play on the offensive line was telling last season, part of the reason Kent ranked last in the MAC in scoring (13.5-point average).

Defensive strengths: Kent has two promising young linebackers around whom it hopes to build its defense. Rashan Hall and Heath

Hommel both started at inside linebacker as true freshmen in '98. Hall ranked 17th in the MAC in tackles with 96. Defensive tackle Brad Hartman gives Kent a spark with his tenacity and emotion.

Defensive weaknesses: Kent implemented a new defense under first-year coordinator Greg Colby last season that can fluctuate between a 3-4 and a 4-3, and incorporate more nickel coverage. The goal was for players to gain a better understanding of fundamentals and not allow as many big plays. Considering that Kent ranked last in the MAC in yards (473.5) and points (41.3) yielded, every area of the defense needs to improve significantly.

Special teams: Jim Less made improvement as a punter in spring practice a year ago, but it didn't carry over to the season. Kent ranked ninth in the MAC in net punting (34.4-yard average). Kicker Dave Pavich, a Lou Groza Award winner in high school, converted 6 of 9 field-goal attempts as a freshman.

SCHEDULE

S4—at Cincinnati
S11—Navy
S18—at Pittsburgh
S25—Bowling Green
O2—at Ohio
O9—at Toledo
O16—Miami, Ohio
O23—at N. Illinois
O30—Buffalo
N6—Marshall
N13—at Akron

Key to success: The Golden Flashes need to make dramatic improvements on defense (read: allow fewer points and yards) to have any chance of improving.

Outlook: After last year's 0-11 record, things can't get worse. There's some talent waiting to blossom, but the program is at such a low point the Golden Flashes can't compete with most of the teams in the MAC.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

GOLDEN FLASHES DATA

Site: Kent, Ohio
Coach: Dean Pees (0-11, 1 year; 0-11 overall, 1 year)
1998 record: 0-11;
Mid-American East: -0-8(6th)
Field: Dix (turf, 30,520)
Last league title: 1972

PROJECTED STARTERS
OFFENSE

WR	Joshua Bostick	6-2	199	So.
T	Jason Hupp	6-3	331	Jr.
G	Victor Vrabel	6-4	285	So.
C	Jeff Krysiak	6-7	287	Jr.
G	Brian Hallett	6-3	302	So.
T	Dan Goodspeed	6-6	279	Sr.
TE	Jason Gavadz	6-3	247	Sr.
WR	Jurren Kelly	6-0	158	So.
QB	Jose Davis	6-0	186	Sr.
TB	DeMarlo Rozier	5-9	211	So.
FB	Michael Smith	5-8	234	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Mark Strickland	6-0	233	So.
T	Aaron Mayer	6-2	274	So.
T	Richard Bender	6-2	250	Jr.
E	Brad Hartman	6-4	288	Sr.
OLB	Rashan Hall	5-11	220	So.
MLB	Matt Rayl	6-0	225	Jr.
OLB	Ryan Altizer	6-1	236	Jr.
CB	Murad Holliday	5-8	178	Sr.
SS	Geoff Betts	5-10	191	Sr.
FS	Gary McCullough	6-0	181	Sr.
CB	*Nashville Dyer	5-10	175	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Dave Pavich	6-1	174	So.
P	Jim Less	5-9	179	Sr.

7 Buffalo

NATIONAL
RANK
113**Offensive strengths:**

Drew Haddad holds the school's all-time record for receptions with 155, including 67 catches last year. The Bulls need a strong presence from

him to help a passing game that features a new quarterback. All five starters on the offensive line return, including three-year starter Michael Garofalo, who is equally adept as a pulling guard on the run and as a pass protector.

Offensive weaknesses: The Bulls lost their top two quarterbacks. Senior Erik Rusin has made three starts, but three other contenders never have thrown a pass in a game. Derrick Gordon would have been the probable starter at tailback, but a broken foot suffered halfway through last season could sideline him well into this season. That leaves three largely untested players to compete for the position.

Defensive strengths: Senior linebacker Josh Trexler is the Bulls' most dependable tackler. Chris Shelly broke the school record last year for tackles by a freshman with 80. Tackle Bob Dzvonick showed promise as a freshman last year

when he made 47 tackles and three sacks.

Defensive weaknesses: Buffalo ended last season with three sophomores and a true freshman starting in the secondary, making that area among the least experienced on the team. That doesn't bode well with the likes of Marshall's high-powered passing attack on the schedule this season.

Special teams: Haddad is Buffalo's career leader in punt return yardage (533); he ranked second in I-AA last year with an average of 17.2 yards per return. The Bulls blocked three kicks last season, increasing their total to 20 in the last four seasons. The punting game needs to improve. Mike Masucci averaged only 36.4 yards a punt, which would have ranked last in the MAC.

Key to success: Buffalo must make marked improvement on defense. The Bulls allowed opponents to score an average of 30.9 points a game as a Division I-AA team, and MAC offenses undoubtedly are going to be much stronger than the ones Buffalo faced last season.

Outlook: The Bulls and fifth-year coach Craig Cirbus will take their lumps this season, if a 50-0 loss to Ohio two years ago can be used as an indicator. In addition to playing East Division heavyweights Marshall and Miami, Buffalo must play at West Division favorite Western Michigan.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S11—Akron
S18—at Connecticut
S25—at Ohio
O2—Northern Illinois
O9—Central Michigan
O16—at W. Michigan
O23—Marshall
O30—at Kent
N6—Hofstra
N13—at Virginia
N20—at Miami, Ohio

BULLS DATA

Site: Buffalo
Coach: Craig Cirbus (17-27, 4 years; 17-27 overall, 4 years)
1998 record: 4-7 (independent status)
Field: University of Buffalo Stadium (grass, 31,000)
Last league title won: none

PROJECTED STARTERS
OFFENSE

WR	Enrico Pierre	5-10	178	Sr.
T	Joe Hattendorf	6-5	298	Sr.
G	David Puce	6-7	300	Jr.
C	Dom Monacelli	6-3	275	Sr.
G	Mike Garofalo	6-4	287	Sr.
T	Tom Brown	6-5	294	Sr.
TE	Gabe Kogler	6-1	266	Jr.
WR	Drew Haddad	5-11	179	Sr.
QB	Erik Rusin	5-11	194	Sr.
TB	Theron Walker	5-9	217	Jr.
FB	Josh Roth	5-11	224	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	*Jamie Guerra	6-2	240	Fr.
E	Andre Thomas	6-1	224	Sr.
T	Bob Dzvonick	6-0	271	So.
T	Josh Stello	6-2	299	Jr.
OLB	Josh Trexler	5-11	214	Sr.
MLB	Brandon Jordan	5-10	216	So.
OLB	Chris Shelly	6-0	212	So.
CB	Carlos Spencer	5-7	180	Jr.
SS	Adolphus Barkor	5-10	182	Sr.
FS	Jeff Lawrence	6-0	182	Jr.
CB	Tory Smith	5-11	192	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Scott Keller	5-8	156	Jr.
P	Mike Masucci	5-11	220	Jr.

1 Western Michigan

NATIONAL RANK
45

Offensive strengths:

Senior Tim Lester is as solid a quarterback as there is in the MAC. He should become the conference's career leader in total offense, passing

yards and touchdown passes. Robert Sanford is moving from fullback to halfback as Western tries to compensate for the loss of 1,000-yard rusher Darnell Fields. Sanford was the MAC's freshman of the year in 1997, but injuries limited him to 523 yards last season.

Offensive weaknesses: It's unclear who would step in at halfback if Sanford can't pick up where he left off two years ago. Benny Clark, the leading rusher in Michigan prep history, would get the first chance but he hasn't had enough carries with the Broncos to prove himself.

Defensive strengths: Garrett Soldano and Mario Evans are active inside linebackers who are adept at stopping the run. Western has one of the top cornerback duos in the MAC in Eric Nunlee and Ronald Rogers. Each player intercepted four passes last year, and Nunlee is a starter for the fourth season.

Defensive weaknesses: The

Broncos have a solid secondary, but they must find a capable replacement for strong safety Reggie Thompson. William Reed, a starter the last two seasons at free safety, will move to strong safety. Untested Carlos Smith will open as the starter at free safety. To remain one of the top run-stopping defenses in the MAC, Western has to find replacements for tackle Dan Falcon and end Nate Wolkow, who combined for 122 tackles and 18 tackles for losses last year. Jeremy Johnson will switch from nose guard to tackle. Tom Rozema, who has made eight starts the last two years at tackle and nose guard, will move to end.

Special teams: Kicker Brad Selent was selected the MAC's special teams player of the year in '98. He kicked late field goals twice to win games. Western might have to resort to a freshman to handle punting duties.

Key to success: The Broncos rate as the favorite in the West Division, but they have to prove they are worthy of being considered a champion. They were waxed, 35-7, by Toledo last year in a game that matched the best in the West.

Outlook: Western Michigan has put itself in position to win the West Division. The MAC schedule early should allow the Broncos to get off to a strong start, but the real tests will be the last two games—against Marshall and at Toledo.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Florida
S11—Youngstown St.
S18—at Missouri
S25—at N. Illinois
O2—Central Michigan
O9—at E. Michigan
O16—Buffalo
O23—Ball State
O30—at Akron
N13—Marshall
N20—at Toledo

BRONCOS DATA

Site: Kalamazoo
Coach: Gary Darnell (15-7, 2 years; 18-11 overall, 3 years)
1998 record: 7-4;
Mid-American West: 5-3 (tie 2nd)
Field: Waldo (grass, 30,000)
Last bowl appearance: 1988

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Steve Neal	6-0	187	Sr.
T	Charlie Knapp	6-5	333	Sr.
G	Paul Lambert	6-4	287	Jr.
C	Colin Greczek	6-3	263	Jr.
G	Gary Nicklasch	6-5	282	Sr.
T	Steve Wark	6-2	297	Sr.
TE	Jake Moreland	6-3	244	Sr.
WR	Corey Alston	6-1	212	Jr.
QB	Tim Lester	6-1	202	Sr.
RB	Robert Sanford	5-11	223	Jr.
FB	Scott Selzer	5-11	231	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Tom Rozema	6-6	266	Sr.
T	Jeremy Johnson	6-3	273	Sr.
NG	John Deming	6-4	273	Sr.
E	Eric Bettys	6-2	228	Sr.
OLB	Jared Pike	6-0	224	Jr.
MLB	Mario Evans	6-0	226	Jr.
OLB	Scott Niles	5-11	229	Sr.
CB	Ronald Rogers	5-8	167	Jr.
SS	William Reed	5-8	184	Sr.
FS	Carlos Smith	6-5	204	So.
CB	Eric Nunlee	5-8	185	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Brad Selent	5-11	184	Jr.
P	J.D. Brink	5-10	165	Fr.

2 Toledo

NATIONAL RANK
53

Offensive strengths:

Chester Taylor is the heir apparent to Wasean Tait and Dwayne Harris at tailback. Taylor is not as good as Tait was before Tait's 1996 knee

injury, but he's better than Harris, who was second in MAC rushing in 1997. In spot duty last year, Taylor led Toledo in yards per carry (5.5) and rushing touchdowns (five). Tackle Colin Westrich was granted a sixth year of eligibility for his injury redshirt season in 1996, strengthening a solid line that returns all 10 players from last year's first- and second-team groups. Tight end Mike Bilik and wide receiver Mel Long are dependable targets.

Offensive weaknesses: It won't be easy to replace quarterback Chris Wallace, a tremendous leader who broke many school passing records. Dan Cole has a strong arm but few significant passing numbers. If he falters, Tavares Bolden has a chance to win the job. Jason Turner and Manny Johnson are speedy but unproven wide receivers.

Defensive strengths: The team's multiple 4-4 defense held opponents to 18 points a game last season.

Many key players from that defense are back, including All-MAC first-team linebacker Jason Lamar and second-team pick DeJuan Goulde at end. Lamar had 119 tackles, and Goulde led the team in sacks with six. Twenty of the 24 players listed on the two-deep for at least two games last year are back.

Defensive weaknesses: The Rockets are emphasizing forcing more turnovers and stronger tackling. The team lost leading tackler Darrick Beckwith (134 stops) at outside linebacker and Matt Vaillant (76 tackles) at inside linebacker. The coaches think Kevin Rollins' experience and Antjuan Savage's hitting ability can aid their transition into starting roles at those positions.

Special teams: True freshman John Manly is expected to take over as punter. Todd France returns at kicker, but he must become more consistent; he made 11 of 19 field-goal attempts last season, including 6 of 13 from beyond 30 yards.

Key to success: The Rockets must lean heavily on Taylor, and he has to deliver. That would give the new quarterback a chance to succeed without feeling he has to do it all.

Outlook: Toledo has lost the MAC championship game in each of the last two seasons. The program remains at a high level, but the loss of Wallace might be too much to overcome in the bid for a third consecutive West Division title.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S2—Syracuse
S18—at Ball State
S25—Massachusetts
O2—at Bowling Green
O9—Kent
O16—at Marshall
O23—E. Michigan
O30—Louisiana Tech
N6—at C. Michigan
N13—N. Illinois
N20—W. Michigan

ROCKETS DATA

Site: Toledo, Ohio
Coach: Gary Pinkel (57-31-3, 8 year)
1998 record: 7-5;
Mid-American West: 6-3 (1st, lost to Marshall in MAC championship game)
Field: Glass Bowl (turf, 26,248)
Last league title won: 1995

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	*Manny Johnson	5-8	160	Fr.
T	Colin Westrich	6-6	295	Sr.
G	Michael Schaefer	6-6	310	Jr.
C	Nick Otterbacher	6-1	280	So.
G	Matt Comer	6-3	285	So.
T	Jim Harding	6-7	305	Jr.
TE	Mike Bilik	6-4	235	Sr.
WR	*Donta Greene	5-8	170	Fr.
QB	Dan Cole	6-3	205	Jr.
RB	Chester Taylor	5-10	195	Jr.
FB	Lyle Green	6-1	215	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Rudy Lomberger	6-3	245	Jr.
T	Jake McLean	6-4	270	So.
T	Jonathon Cunningham	6-1	270	Jr.
E	DeJuan Goulde	6-1	235	Jr.
OLB	Keith Travis	6-0	200	Sr.
ILB	Jason Lamar	6-1	235	Sr.
ILB	Kevin Rollins	6-2	225	Jr.
OLB	Ira Singleton	6-1	195	Jr.
CB	Marcus Hill	5-10	180	Jr.
FS	Andy Boyd	6-1	195	So.
CB	Jameel Turner	5-9	180	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Todd France	6-3	180	So.
P	John Manly	6-2	180	Fr.

3 Central Michigan

NATIONAL
RANK
80**Offensive strengths:**

The backfield returns intact, headed by All-MAC first-team performer Eric Flowers at tailback. Flowers stepped in two years ago when

Silas Massey was injured and proved to be a top-flight rusher who can handle a heavy workload. A strong offensive line has been at the heart of Central's solid rushing game this decade, and tackles Eric Page and Matt Brayton and guard John Herrold give the Chippewas a good nucleus.

Offensive weaknesses: The graduation of four pass catchers, including Reggie Allen and Bryan Schorman, two of the top receivers in MAC history, makes the wideout corps the top concern on offense. Six inexperienced returnees and three redshirt freshmen will contend for the top four spots on the depth chart.

Defensive strengths:

Cornerback Tedaro France was a nice surprise last year, earning All-MAC second-team honors as a red-shirt freshman. Free safety Brian Leigeb, who has led the team in tackles each of the last two seasons, holds the secondary together. Ends

Walter Jenkins and Gabe McMasters are solid starters, and Darnell Wilson and Jerry Zaremba provide good depth.

Defensive weaknesses: The Chippewas lack solid experience at inside linebacker because of the loss of twins Jason and Jeremy Gold. Casey Laughlin might have to move inside. Sophomore inside linebacker Abdullah Muhammad made a solid impact as a backup last year. Central lost the heart of its defensive line—inside players Calvin Massenberg, Jon McCall and C.J. Remmo. Joe Adam will be a key factor at tackle after making 44 stops as a backup last season.

Special teams: The Chippewas need to shore up their kicking game. Punter Jake Kemp ranked ninth in the MAC in punting. Kicker Paul Savich lacked consistency, making only 11 of 20 field-goal attempts.

Key to success: Central must develop dependable receivers in a hurry. The Chippewas can't put Flowers in the position of having to carry the offense.

SCHEDULE

S2—Eastern Illinois
S11—at Syracuse
S18—at Purdue
S25—Miami, Ohio
O2—at W. Michigan
O9—at Buffalo
O16—N. Illinois
O30—at Bowling Green
N6—Toledo
N13—E. Michigan
N20—at Ball State

Outlook: The Chippewas have enough experience to be a competitive team in the West Division, but they can't let a rugged schedule early in the season get them off track. They have road games with Syracuse, Purdue and West Division-favorite Western Michigan, and a home game with a strong Miami team of the East Division among their first five games.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

CHIPPEWAS DATA

Site: Mount Pleasant
Coach: Dick Flynn (26-30, 5 years)
1998 record: 6-5;
Mid-American West: 5-3 (tie 2nd)
Field: Kelly-Shorts (turf, 30,199)
Last league title won: 1994

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Rory Nevins	5-10	165	Sr.
T	Matt Brayton	6-7	305	So.
G	Nick Ferguson	6-5	285	So.
C	Anders Hill	6-5	285	So.
G	John Herrold	6-4	290	Jr.
T	Eric Page	6-7	300	Sr.
TE	Mark Swetz	6-5	220	Sr.
WR	David Hannah	5-10	180	Jr.
QB	Pete Shepherd	6-1	200	Jr.
RB	Eric Flowers	5-10	200	Sr.
FB	Jason Meyer	5-10	184	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Walter Jenkins	6-3	230	Sr.
NG	Jerry Stempfen	6-2	270	Sr.
T	Joe Adam	6-3	260	Sr.
E	Gabe McMasters	6-4	245	Sr.
OLB	Ralph Sewell	6-0	200	Jr.
MLB	Darvin Lewis	6-3	200	Fr.
OLB	Abdullah Muhammad	6-1	200	So.
CB	Tedaro France	5-10	170	So.
SS	Rodrico Epps	5-10	175	So.
FS	Brian Leigeb	6-2	185	Jr.
CB	Scott Naz	5-10	170	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Paul Savich	5-7	150	So.
P	Jake Kemp	6-1	190	Sr.

4 Ball State

NATIONAL
RANK
89**Offensive strengths:**

Ball State has assembled a quality offensive line, even though the unit is severely lacking in depth. The Cardinals identified a need to get

bigger up front, and they will put a line on the field that averages almost 300 pounds a player. In a league filled with great receivers, Adrian Reese is easy to overlook. He's dependable, if not flashy.

Offensive weaknesses: The most unstable position on last year's team was quarterback. Three players earned starts in the first 10 games, and injuries forced the Cardinals to go back to their original starter in the last game. Brian Conn and Clay Walters will compete for the starting job, but if neither emerges Ball State could turn to redshirt freshman Ryan Schrink. With LeAndre Moore—the school's No. 2 all-time rusher—gone, Kevin Cartwright and junior college transfer Quavis Tate will compete for the tailback position.

Defensive strengths: Inside linebacker Marlon Llewellyn is the trigger man in getting the Cardinals positioned where they need to be.

He is an aggressive hitter and a great student of the game. Lowell Faison's versatility in the secondary is an asset. He has the strength to play safety and the speed for cornerback.

Defensive weaknesses: The Cardinals have to put their offense in better field position by being more opportunistic. Ball State forced only 13 turnovers last year. Offenses took advantage of four first-year players among the top five defensive linemen. The Cardinals ranked 11th in the MAC in sacks with just 11.

Special teams: Ball State has had two punters in the last six seasons. Kevin Jennings and Brad Kroft will compete for the job, and neither has punted in a game. Kicker Thomas Pucke didn't show the capability for field goals beyond 30 yards last season. Adrian Reese is one of the most elusive punt returners in the conference.

Key to success: The Cardinals sorely lacked big plays on both sides of the ball last season, and the inability to change momentum in games was one reason why they went 1-10, the worst record in school history. Tate could give Ball State a game-breaking threat at tailback.

SCHEDULE

S4—at Indiana
S11—at Wisconsin
S18—Toledo
S25—at Army
O2—Akron
O9—at N. Illinois
O23—at W. Michigan
O30—Ohio
N6—at E. Michigan
N13—at Bowling Green
N20—C. Michigan

Outlook: Ball State had to play many freshmen and sophomores last season. The Cardinals still are too young to scare many teams, but they shouldn't be overpowered as often as they were in 1998.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

CARDINALS DATA

Site: Muncie, Ind.
Coach: Bill Lynch (21-24, 4 years; 57-36-3 overall, 9 years)
1998 record: 1-10; Mid-American West: 1-7 (6th)
Field: Ball State (grass, 21,581)
Last league title won: 1996

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Adrian Reese	5-9	166	Sr.
T	Aaron Johnson	6-5	281	Sr.
G	John Moore	6-5	287	Jr.
C	Chad Ludwig	6-2	286	Sr.
G	Jeff Thiel	6-4	286	Sr.
T	Ryan Carter	6-5	288	Sr.
TE	Jimmy Place	6-7	211	Sr.
WR	Montez Currin	5-11	180	Sr.
QB	Brian Conn	6-2	219	Jr.
RB	Kevin Cartwright	6-0	215	Sr.
FB	Gerald Palmer	6-2	225	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Bayette George	6-2	235	Jr.
E	Rachman Crable	6-3	232	Jr.
T	Mark Zackery	5-11	270	Jr.
T	Evan Triggs	6-3	240	Jr.
OLB	Larry Davis	5-11	205	Sr.
ILB	Ernest Pressley	6-1	199	Sr.
ILB	Marlon Llewellyn	5-11	211	Sr.
OLB	Byron Driver	6-0	190	Sr.
CB	Lowell Faison	5-9	180	Sr.
FS	Pete Smith	5-10	169	Sr.
CB	Alger Boswell	5-7	186	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Thomas Pucke	6-0	185	So.
P	Brad Kroft	6-3	225	Sr.

5 Northern Illinois

NATIONAL RANK
99

Offensive strengths:

Justin McCareins is one of the best receivers in this league. Playing in the shadow of Deon Mitchell last year, McCareins tied the

school's Division I-A record for most catches in a game (12) on the way to team-best 54 catches. Tackle Ryan Diem was the only sophomore on last year's All-MAC team.

Defensive weaknesses: Injuries caused the quarterback spot to be very unsettled last year. By October, the Huskies were using walk-on Craig Harmon, who began the season sixth on the depth chart. Harmon, Chris Finlen and Frisman Jackson will battle for the job, with Finlen having the inside track. The Huskies are shuffling several players on the line to fill a hole at guard.

Defensive strengths: Strong safety Donnavan Carter's 124 tackles last year were the most by a Huskies player in three seasons. The Huskies have a solid combination on the line in Lewis Miskowicz and tackle Lamain Rucker. Miskowicz is a hard-nosed player who was second on the team in tackles for loss

last season, while Rucker showed signs of living up to his high school nickname—"Bonecrusher."

Defensive weaknesses: The Huskies have to replace Duane Hawthorne at cornerback. The main contenders are Buster Sampson, Torrence Andrews and Chauncy O'Neal. Sampson began fall camp in 1998 as the starter at right cornerback but didn't hold the job. The Huskies are hoping for stronger chemistry among their linebackers. Weakside linebacker Jon Pendergrass brings 4.46 speed to the position, but the former strong safety is a bit undersized.

Special teams: Brian Grider could replace Brian Clark, who left as the school's No. 3 all-time leader in kicking points. If Grider fails, punter Kent Baker could be given dual roles. If Baker handles placement kicks, reserve quarterback Jason Hogrefe could become the punter. The Huskies must find a capable replacement for Mitchell at kick returner.

Key to success:

A better offense. The Huskies have been respectable on defense, but they have been dreadful on offense. Mistakes on offense have crippled the Huskies the last three seasons.

Outlook: With the overall weakness of the West Division, Northern Illinois has a chance to contend for third place if it can make major improvements on offense. But there's a fine line between the third- and sixth-place teams.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S2—Western Illinois
S11—at Vanderbilt
S18—at Iowa
S25—W. Michigan
O2—at Buffalo
O9—Ball State
O16—at C. Michigan
O23—Kent State
O30—at Marshall
N13—at Toledo
N20—E. Michigan

HUSKIES DATA

Site: DeKalb
Coach: Joe Novak (3-30, 3 years)
1998 record: 2-9;
Mid-American West: 2-6 (5th)
Field: Huskie (turf, 31,000)
Last league title won: 1983

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Darrell Hill	6-1	189	Jr.
T	John Pedersen	6-5	285	So.
G	Kyle Jakubek	6-2	272	Jr.
C	McAllister Collins	6-2	276	Jr.
G	Mike Newman	6-4	298	Jr.
T	Ryan Diem	6-7	325	Jr.
TE	Bob Leshner	6-4	245	Sr.
WR	Justin McCareins	6-1	200	Jr.
QB	Chris Finlen	6-3	216	So.
TB	Bill Andrews	5-10	197	Jr.
FB	Mike Stack	6-2	253	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Lewis Miskowicz	6-2	268	Jr.
T	Lamain Rucker	6-2	300	Jr.
NT	Darian Tate	6-3	263	Jr.
E	Trent Clemen	6-4	234	So.
OLB	Cameron Saulsby	6-1	220	Jr.
MLB	Kevin Selover	6-2	219	Jr.
OLB	Jon Pendergrass	6-0	207	So.
CB	Torrence Andrews	5-10	164	So.
SS	Jermaine Hampton	6-1	192	Jr.
FS	Donnavan Carter	6-1	196	Sr.
CB	Beji Peacock	5-7	167	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	*Brian Grider	6-1	221	Fr.
P	Kent Baker	6-1	189	Sr.

6 Eastern Michigan

NATIONAL RANK
112

Offensive strengths:

The Eagles found two capable quarterbacks last season. Walt Church was a consistent performer as the starter.

When he missed the last

two games because of an injury, Joe Cosgrove led the team to a victory over West Division champion Toledo. Jermaine Sheffield emerged as one of the best receivers in the MAC last year and is one of the top deep threats in the conference. The Eagles return their top seven pass catchers.

Defensive weaknesses: The team has to replace tackles L.J. Shelton, who was a first-round choice in the NFL draft, and Clay Mihaere. Probable replacements Chuck Butkowski and John Grabowski have the size, but they have limited experience. Tailback continues to be a problem. Neither Eric Powell, Idris Wells or Ethan Vannoy was able to distinguish himself in '98.

Defensive strengths: Eastern Michigan's blitz-happy defense produced 30 sacks—the second-best total in the MAC—last season. Although the high passing numbers

by opponents might belie it, the secondary consists of good playmakers. Cornerback Lincoln Dupree was second in the MAC in interceptions (four) and free safety Donald McCall led the team in tackles (128).

Defensive weaknesses: Constant blitzing put the Eagles in high-risk situations in pass coverage last season, and opponents were able to take advantage. Eastern ranked 11th in the MAC in pass defense and allowed nearly 400 total yards per game. Four players competing for two outside linebacker jobs will have to make up for the team-best eight sacks made by Derek Vitatoe.

Special teams: The Eagles have a big hole to fill after losing Justin Ventura, the school's all-time kicking leader. Toller Starnes made one of two field-goal attempts last year. Punter Nick Avondet's 42.8-yard average was the second best in school history.

Key to success:

The Eagles must develop a running game to take some pressure off what should be a good passing attack. They return the same cast of running backs that averaged only 88.6 yards (11th in the conference) last season.

Outlook: Coach Rick Rasnick will be under pressure to improve on last year's 3-8 record. The Eagles return 15 starters, but if the running game doesn't improve and the defense can't assert itself, they'll have trouble bettering that mark.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S11—at Michigan St.
S18—at Miami, Ohio
S25—Akron
O2—at Louisville
O9—W. Michigan
O16—Ohio
O23—at Toledo
O30—at C. Florida
N6—Ball State
N13—at C. Michigan
N20—at N. Illinois

EAGLES DATA

Site: Ypsilanti
Coach: Rick Rasnick (16-28, 4 years)
1998 record: 3-8;
Mid-American West: 3-5 (4th)
Field: Rynearson (turf, 30,200)
Last league title: 1987

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Jermaine Sheffield	6-5	202	Sr.
T	Chuck Butkowski	6-3	290	Jr.
G	Rich Chorak	6-2	277	So.
C	Tom Michel	6-1	274	Sr.
G	Craig Cipa	6-4	270	Jr.
T	John Grabowski	6-5	306	So.
TE	Matt Kelly	6-3	226	Jr.
WR	Brandon Campbell	5-10	175	Sr.
QB	Walt Church	6-4	220	Jr.
RB	Eric Powell	5-10	212	Jr.
FB	Pete Nyikes	6-1	210	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Tyrone Rosser	6-1	247	Jr.
NT	James Turner	6-2	265	Jr.
E	Ashley Travis	6-4	242	Sr.
OLB	Clifton Robinson	6-1	201	Sr.
ILB	Scott Russell	6-2	212	So.
ILB	Jason Short	6-3	218	Jr.
OLB	Ken Philpot	6-1	216	So.
CB	Lincoln Dupree	5-10	186	Sr.
SS	James Hughes	6-0	186	Sr.
FS	Donald McCall	6-0	190	Sr.
CB	Isaac Shipp	5-9	190	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Toller Starnes	5-7	195	So.
P	Nick Avondet	6-0	168	Jr.

SCOUTING

Mid-American

All-Conference

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Nate Poole, Marshall	6-3	185	Sr.
WR	Steve Neal, Western Michigan	6-0	187	Sr.
TE	Jake Moreland, Western Michigan	6-3	244	Sr.
T	Mike Williams, Marshall	6-5	305	Sr.
T	Colin Westrich, Toledo	6-6	295	Sr.
G	Dan Wessman, Akron	6-2	290	Sr.
G	Mark Kautzman, Bowling Green	6-4	290	Sr.
C	Mike Varone, Ohio	6-3	270	Sr.
QB	Chad Pennington, Marshall	6-3	220	Sr.
RB	Travis Prentice, Miami	6-2	228	Sr.
RB	Eric Flowers, Central Michigan	5-10	200	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	DeJuan Goulde, Toledo	6-1	235	Jr.
T	Girardie Mercer, Marshall	6-2	285	Sr.
E	Ron Puggi, Marshall	6-4	245	Sr.
LB	Jason Lamar, Toledo	6-1	235	Sr.
LB	Dustin Cohen, Miami	6-4	224	Sr.
LB	Leigh Barbour, Ohio	6-2	215	Sr.
LB	John Grace, Marshall	5-11	205	Sr.
CB	Lincoln Dupree, Eastern Michigan	5-10	186	Sr.
CB	Daninelle Derricott, Marshall	5-11	170	Jr.
S	Rogers Beckett, Marshall	6-3	205	Sr.
S	Donnavan Carter, Northern Illinois	6-1	196	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Brad Selent, Western Michigan	5-11	184	Jr.
P	Dave Zastudil, Ohio	6-4	220	So.
KR	Adrian Reese, Ball State	5-9	166	Sr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer:	Quavis Tate, RB, Ball State
Top defensive newcomer:	Tom Ward, LB, Toledo
Best offensive backfield:	Marshall
Best wide receivers:	Marshall
Best offensive line:	Toledo
Best defensive line:	Marshall
Best linebackers:	Toledo
Best secondary:	Marshall
Best special teams:	Western Michigan
Hardest hitter:	Joe O'Neill, LB, Bowling Green
Best backup QB:	Joe Cosgrove, Eastern Michigan
Best pro prospect:	Travis Prentice, RB, Miami
Best game-day atmosphere:	Marshall

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- Toledo:** Keon Frazier, a deadly passer and runner, was the QB the Rockets wanted.
- Marshall:** The Thundering Herd signed a small but talented class, headed by LB Elmer Holmes.
- Miami:** Despite a coaching change, the RedHawks signed 16 of the 17 players who had committed prior to the change.
- Ohio:** The Bobcats signed four QBs, including Dontrell Jackson, and two other players who are good enough athletes to become option QBs.
- Western Michigan:** The Broncos needed to get bigger, and they did by signing six linemen.

Mid-American Conference officials tabbed Rick Chryst, an assistant commissioner with the Atlantic Coast Conference, as its new commissioner in the spring. Chryst was hired after Tom McElroy, an assistant commissioner with the Big East, took the job two weeks earlier and resigned two days after the press conference to announce his hiring. Chryst will be asked to energize a conference that has little money, a small revenue stream and minimal exposure. Among his first tasks will be to align the MAC with a proposed bowl opportunity in Toronto, which is slated to be staged in December 2000. The league already sends its champion to the Motor City Bowl.

Ascending: Western Michigan hasn't won the MAC title since 1988, but after threatening in the West Division the last two seasons, the Broncos should break through this year and advance to the league championship game.

Descending: Ohio. After surging to title contender status in 1996 and '97, the Bobcats leveled off a bit last year. Bowling Green and Akron are on the verge of passing Ohio in the East Division standings.

Best matchup: Marshall at Miami, October 2. The Thundering Herd have stolen the RedHawks' thunder by winning the East title the last two years, and Miami would like nothing more than to exact some revenge.

Biggest shoes to fill: Jojuan Armour's. The Miami linebacker was the MAC's defensive player of the year each of the last two seasons while leading one of the nation's top defenses. The task to replace him falls to senior Mike Yeager or junior Mike Montgomery.

Most overrated player: Kent quarterback Jose Davis. He showed great promise two seasons ago, but when he was put in a position last season of carrying a bigger load because of the team's subpar rushing game, he failed to deliver.

Most underrated player: Ball State inside linebacker Marlon Llewellyn. He's like a coach on the field, and despite ranking second in the MAC in tackles last year he didn't receive even honorable mention notice on the all-conference team.

Best coach: Who could argue against

6. Ball State: The Cardinals strayed from their philosophy of wooing Indiana talent by signing only five state players. RB Jesse Avant is the star.

7. Central Michigan got faster on defense, and junior college WR Fletcher Smith bolsters the offense. **8. Northern Illinois** signed 13 players at nine positions. **9. Bowling Green** has 13 defensive players in its 23-man class. **10. Akron** DB Jesse Smith was called by his high school coach the school's top athlete in 25 years.

11. Eastern Michigan signed several versatile players, headed by TB T.J. Nelson. **12. Kent** signed five players from Shady Side Academy in Pittsburgh, which produced Kent's all-time leading WR, Eugene Baker. **13. Buffalo** tried to upgrade across the board after moving from I-AA to I-A.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Miami, the school that gave the 1999 NCAA

Tournament Wally Szczerbiak, has another great player America hasn't heard about: Travis Prentice, a 6-1, 228-pound senior who is the nation's leading returning rusher. He ran for 1,787 yards and 19 TDs last year, second to Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams in both categories.

Like Szczerbiak, Prentice enters his senior year a relative unknown. That doesn't mean he can't play. Prentice hardly is some plodding power back who runs up his statistics against inferior competition. He runs a 4.43 40. He opened last season with 162 yards against North Carolina, the most the Tar Heels had given up to a running back in the 1990s.

Prentice is fourth on the NCAA all-time rushing TD list with 56 (Williams is first with 72). He hasn't lost a fumble in his last 684 carries and has lost one in 784 career carries. But he has some unfinished business. Miami was the only 10-1 team last season not to get a bowl bid, and the RedHawks have not won the MAC since 1986. "I want that ring," Prentice says. —John Fay



Travis Prentice, Miami

Bob Pruett of Marshall? All he's done in two years in the MAC is win two conference championships.

Best staff: Marshall. The Thundering Herd assistants coached eight of their players to spots on the All-MAC first team last season, and Marshall's recruiting efforts continue to be strong.

Coach on the hot seat: There was speculation last season that Rick Rasnick might be fired after Eastern Michigan went 3-8. He held onto his job, but it's obvious the Eagles have to show some improvement.

Odds and ends: Toledo guard Mike Lenix is in his seventh season with the Rockets. The NCAA granted him two extra seasons on injury exemptions. He redshirted in 1993, didn't play in 1994 and '95 because of injury, played one game in 1996 before being injured and started all 12 games in 1997 and '98. ... Ball State defensive end Sunungura Rusununguko is expected to play this season after sitting out the 1998 season and this year's spring practice while recovering from a condition in his right knee that causes the bone to die. It is similar to the ailment that ended Bo Jackson's pro sports career. ... Toledo will play seven home games for the first time since 1949. ... Is Akron or Ball State more thankful for the conference's rotating league schedule? The system knocked Marshall and Toledo, the MAC championship game participants in 1997 and '98, off Akron's schedule. Marshall and Miami, who combined for 40 wins the last two years, dropped off Ball State's schedule.

—Doug Zaleski

BIG WEST

Big West
CONFERENCE
RANK

11

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY STEPHEN DODGE, IDAHO STATESMAN

What they did in 1998

What they've done in 1990s

	Conference W-L	Pts.	Opp.	Overall W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Idaho	4-1	162	162	9-3	392	317	70-37	.654	3,759	2,629
Nevada	3-2	202	143	6-5	371	316	77-31	.713	3,954	2,724
North Texas	3-2	117	114	3-8	173	297	35-60-2	.361	2,020	2,747
Boise State	2-3	157	176	6-5	329	350	57-50	.533	2,815	2,783
Utah State	2-3	108	135	3-8	237	309	44-56-1	.436	2,627	2,797
New Mexico State	1-4	168	184	3-8	331	424	27-72	.273	2,243	3,481
*Arkansas State	-	-	-	4-8	216	385	25-73-2	.250	1,705	3,080
*New member for 1999										

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES non-conference, conference
1. NEVADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to keep QB David Neill healthy. New LBs need to be tough against the run. 	QB David Neill WR Trevor Insley	FS Maxzell Williams LB Jason Burk	Sept. 4 vs. Oregon State Nov. 6 vs. Idaho
2. IDAHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Someone has to replace RB Joel Thomas. Depth needed for the line. 	QB John Welsh TE Mike Roberg	T Mao Tosi LB Chris Nofoaiga	Oct. 2 at Wyoming Nov. 6 at Nevada
3. BOISE STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions must be answered at WR, RB. Veteran unit needs to maintain aggressiveness. 	T Keith Dilworth QB Bart Hendricks	LB Bryan Johnson T Jon Rydman	Sept. 25 vs. New Mexico Oct. 23 vs. Nevada
4. UTAH STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill talent must carry load while line develops. Losses could make unit weak up the middle. 	K Brad Bohn RB Demario Brown	FS Donald Dicko LB Brent Passey	Oct. 1 vs. Brigham Young Oct. 23 at Idaho
5. NEW MEXICO STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to replace prolific rusher Denvin Manns. A strong line must dominate. 	WR Ryan Shaw K Nick Cecava	T Tim Engelhardt LB D'Wayne Taylor	Sept. 11 at New Mexico Oct. 9 vs. Nevada
6. NORTH TEXAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inexperienced line will try to protect new QB. Strong LBs and DBs must carry big load. 	WR Broderick McGrew RB Ja'Quay Wilburn	P John Baker E Corbin Montgomery	Sept. 2 vs. UNLV Oct. 16 vs. Boise State
7. ARKANSAS STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong passing game needs to shine. Rebuilt line can't get manhandled. 	QB Cleo Lemon WR Robert Kilow	SS Sean Mitchell LB Michael Bailey	Sept. 4 at Illinois Oct. 23 at North Texas

1 Nevada

**NATIONAL
RANK
58**

Offensive strengths: Quarterback David Neill passed for 3,249 yards and 29 TDs last season, despite being a true freshman and being suspended for two games.

Neill has added 10 pounds to his 6-5 frame and has nine other returning starters to utilize in Nevada's vaunted aerial attack. Wide receiver Trevor Insley (1,220 yards last season) might be more talented than the record-setting wide receiver (Geoff Noisy) he replaces as the team's No. 1 option. Tailback Chris Lemon (1,154 yards) balances the offense, and Darin Higgins is easily the best tight end in the conference. The offensive line returns all five starters.

Offensive weaknesses: There aren't many. Nevada averaged 507 yards and more than 33 points last season—and 10 starters are back. The only player the Pack will miss is Noisy, and there's plenty of skill at receiver to compensate.

Defensive strengths: Linebacker Jason Burk and strong safety Maxzell Williams are coming off strong seasons. Burk, a particularly strong run stopper, had 101 tackles last year. Williams needs to take on

an even bigger role this year because two starters in the secondary will be new. Defensive tackle Horacio Leyva, a freshman starter last season, has a bright future.

Defensive weaknesses: Two starting defensive backs and a linebacker must be found, but perhaps the biggest hole to fill is at defensive end, where George Brazil must be replaced. Nevada gave up at least 48 points three times last season and was particularly weak against the run, so improvement is needed across the board.

Special teams: Both specialists return, but the kicking game is weak. Mike Phillips hit 3 of 9 field-goal attempts last season, and punter Norm Brady managed a barely adequate 39-yard average. There is hope on the horizon. Freshman kicker Rey Sanchez will be eligible after sitting out last season. He has yet to kick in a college game—and he's a step forward.

Key to success: Improving the run defense.

SCHEDULE

S4—Oregon State
S11—at Colorado St.
S18—at Oregon
S25—Fresno State
O2—UNLV
O9—at New Mexico St.
O23—at Boise State
O30—North Texas
N6—Idaho
N13—at Arkansas St.
N20—Utah State

Nevada surrendered 190 yards a game on the ground last season. By the end of the season, the best way to stop the Wolf Pack offense was to keep it off the field. And it worked.

Outlook: Nevada's football team might average more points than its struggling basketball team. If the Wolf Pack can make any improvement on defense, this team should sit atop the Big West standings come November.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

WOLF PACK DATA

Site: Reno
Coach: Jeff Tisdell (20-14, 3 years)
1998 record: 6-5;
Big West: 3-2 (tie 2nd)
Field: Mackay (grass, 31,545)
Last league title won: 1996

PROJECTED STARTERS OFFENSE

WR	Trevor Insley	6-1	195	Sr.
T	Jeff Batrez	6-4	290	Sr.
G	Cameron Norcross	6-0	270	Sr.
C	Ryan Scuffy	6-2	285	Sr.
G	Eric Harper	6-3	285	Sr.
T	Greg Bird	6-4	290	Sr.
TE	Darin Higgins	6-4	225	Sr.
WR	David Burr	5-10	170	Jr.
WR	Clevon Brooks	5-10	175	So.
QB	David Neill	6-5	200	So.
TB	Chris Lemon	5-11	200	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Jacob Silicz	6-5	240	So.
T	Rick Cross	6-5	290	Sr.
T	Jim Farley	6-1	175	Sr.
E	Cedric Pittman	6-4	260	Sr.
OLB	Aaron Taele	6-2	220	Jr.
MLB	Dan Rockwell	6-4	230	Sr.
OLB	Jason Burk	6-1	235	Sr.
CB	Mack Carminer	5-11	210	Jr.
SS	Greg Oliver	5-10	200	Sr.
FS	Maxzell Williams	5-11	185	Sr.
CB	Del Bates	5-11	170	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Mike Phillips	5-10	170	Jr.
P	Norm Brady	6-1	180	So.

2 Idaho

**NATIONAL
RANK
64**

Offensive strengths: Idaho's line has matured from a weakness into a strength, especially with junior tackle Rick DeMulling manning one side. He has great foot-

work and doesn't get beaten by pass rushers. The offense looks explosive with shiftier Ryan Prestimonico returning at wide receiver and ultra-confident sophomore John Welsh returning at quarterback. Prestimonico blossomed into a big weapon during the stretch run last season. The offense was good last year; it should be better this season.

Offensive weaknesses: Tailback Joel Thomas was the heart, soul and leader of the offense. After six years, he's gone. Anthony Tenner and true freshman Tyree Clowe are the top candidates to replace Thomas.

Defensive strengths: The line is the league's best, with 270-pound basketball player Falemao Tosi dominating the middle alongside sensational sophomore Wil Beck. Tosi changes an offense's game plan with his quickness, strength and intensity. He's an NFL prospect. Behind the line are speedy linebackers Matt

Jaasik and Chris Nofoaiga, and middle linebacker James Durrroughs, who is coming off a knee injury. All have all-league talent. Cornerback Dennis Gibbs has great man-to-man coverage skills. The strength up front and the speed behind it give Idaho a lot of options.

Defensive weaknesses: Two players must be found for the secondary. The first priority is cornerback. Junior Ighe Evero is back, but he didn't play well last year. That's a big concern, because the Vandals' attacking style often leaves cornerbacks alone. A versatile safety is needed, too. The final weakness is a product of the whole defense: Idaho has to force more turnovers. It worked heavily on that during spring drills.

Special teams: The Vandals will spend August searching for a punter. Kicker Ben Davis is back, but he needs to become more consistent. The return and coverage teams are above average.

Key to success: Finding a workhorse running back. The Vandals have a good defense, a solid passing game and an offensive line to run behind. They need someone to carry the ball.

Outlook: This is a good team, capable of returning to the Humanitarian Bowl. Idaho was helped last season by Nevada, which beat the Vandals but was upset twice in league play. Idaho can't depend on luck this year and has to find a way to beat Nevada.

SCHEDULE

S3—at E. Washington
S11—at Auburn
S18—Washington St.
O2—at Wyoming
O9—North Texas
O16—at Arkansas St.
O23—Utah State
O30—at N. Mexico St.
N6—at Nevada
N13—at Montana
N20—Boise State

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

VANDALS DATA

Site: Moscow
Coach: Chris Tormey (26-19, 4 years)
1998 record: 9-3 (beat So. Mississippi in Humanitarian Bowl; Big West: 4-1 (1st)
Field: Kibbie Dome (turf, 16,000)
Last league title won: 1998

PROJECTED STARTERS OFFENSE

WR	Willie Alderson	6-0	180	Jr.
T	Rick DeMulling	6-5	269	Jr.
G	Cleve Aiono	6-2	280	Sr.
C	Jeremy Wallace	6-3	223	Jr.
G	Anthony Fuentes	6-3	271	So.
T	Patrick Venzke	6-6	304	Jr.
TE	Mike Roberg	6-4	260	So.
WR	Ryan Prestimonico	5-9	177	Sr.
WR	Ethan Jones	6-1	190	So.
QB	John Welsh	6-2	205	So.
RB	Michael Moody	5-10	201	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Ryan Knowles	6-3	250	So.
E	Matt Kramer	6-4	230	Sr.
T	Mao Tosi	6-6	270	Sr.
NT	Wil Beck	6-2	300	So.
OLB	Chris Nofoaiga	5-10	210	Jr.
MLB	Matt Jaasik	5-11	215	Sr.
OLB	Casey Hills	6-3	220	Jr.
CB	Dennis Gibbs	5-10	170	Jr.
SS	David Smith	5-10	172	So.
FS	Bryson Gardner	6-0	200	Sr.
CB	Ighe Evero	5-11	175	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Ben Davis	6-1	181	Jr.
P	Bert Sims	5-10	181	So.

3 Boise State

NATIONAL RANK
81

Offensive strengths:

The Broncos return four starters and a lot of size from the best offensive line in the league. But the best lineman—tackle Keith Dilworth—suffered

a knee injury in the final game last season and may redshirt this year. The decision will come in August. Quarterback Bart Hendricks has experience and poise, but he lacks the arm to throw deep. Expect freshman B.J. Rhode to get some time.

Offensive weaknesses: The top seven receivers from last season have been lost to graduation or position change. Talent is waiting, especially in tight end—turned-wide receiver Jeb Putzier and Andre Banks, who graduated from high school at age 16, but both need time to develop. Inexperience also is a problem at tailback, with only Gavin Reed returning. Reed was academically ineligible last year and wasn't living up to his potential before then.

Defensive strengths: Four starters return to the talented secondary, led by cornerbacks Damien Schilling and Dempsey Dees. Watch

for Shaunard Harts, who has been moved from tailback to strong safety. He has 4.38 speed and loves to hit. Depth in the secondary is key because the Broncos' base defense is the nickel. Speedy linebacker Bryan Johnson has earned second-team All-Big West honors for the past two seasons. The defensive line isn't particularly athletic, but the players are blue-collar types renowned for their work ethic.

Defensive weaknesses: More depth is needed in the front seven, and the Broncos need to develop a stronger pass rush. Replacing defensive tackle Bobby Setzer won't be easy—he was the team's emotional leader.

Special teams: This was Boise State's No. 1 focus in the spring, and for good reason—both specialists were lost. The coverage and return teams, which struggled a great deal last season, are of more concern. Improvement is needed immediately across the board.

Key to success: Finding a running back. The team was in the same situation before last season and found a workhorse in Eron Hurley. A healthy, determined Reed would be huge. Otherwise, Boise State's dominant offensive line will go to waste.

Outlook: The Broncos are getting better, but a lack of talent at the offensive skill positions will keep them out of the title race for at least one more year. Look for six or seven wins.

*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at UCLA
S11—Southern Utah
S18—at Hawaii
S25—New Mexico
O2—Utah
O9—E. Washington
O16—at North Texas
O23—Nevada
O30—at Utah State
N6—Arkansas State
N13—New Mexico St.
N20—at Idaho

BRONCOS DATA

Site: Boise, Idaho
Coach: Dirk Koetter (6-5, 1 year)
1993 record: 6-5; Big West: 2-3 (tie 4th)
Field: Bronco (turf, 30,000)
Last league title: 1994 (Big Sky)
Last post-season appearance: 1994

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Mike Davissou	6-0	183	Sr.
T	Derek Olley	6-5	295	So.
G	Willie Van Gorder	6-4	318	Sr.
C	Ryan Groneman	6-1	302	Sr.
G	Jeremy Mankins	6-5	324	Sr.
T	Greg Klum	6-3	300	Sr.
TE	Dave Stachelski	6-3	250	Sr.
WR	Billy Wingfield	5-9	177	So.
QB	Bart Hendricks	6-0	200	Jr.
RB	Davy Malaythong	5-10	190	Jr.
FB	Shay Swan	5-11	208	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Andy Bennett	6-2	253	Sr.
T	Jon Rydman	6-2	273	Sr.
T	Bradley Phillips	6-3	290	Jr.
E	Mike Maloy	6-3	234	Sr.
OLB	Shawn Sandoval	6-1	220	Jr.
MLB	Bryan Johnson	6-1	228	Sr.
OLB	Ross Farris	5-10	193	Sr.
CB	Dempsey Dees	5-10	174	Jr.
SS	Ryan Brinkley	5-11	197	Jr.
FS	Quintin Mikell	5-10	200	Fr.
CB	Damien Schilling	5-9	175	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Brett Thompson	5-10	264	Jr.
P	Brett Thompson	5-10	264	Jr.

4 Utah State

NATIONAL RANK
91

Offensive strengths:

When healthy, Demario Brown is the top running back in the Big West. He finished strong last season, averaging 143.8 yards for the last four

games. However, he often was hobbled by injury. Brown should find running room behind three returning starters on the offensive line—tackle Ben Holbrook, center Junior Pututau and guard Mike Lindsay—a perennial strong unit at Utah State.

Offensive weaknesses: Utah State lost its top two receivers (Robert Scott and London McBride), leaving speedy Aaron Jones (22 receptions in '98) as the go-to man. Quarterback Jeff Crosbie took over as the starter midway through last season and showed flashes of brilliance. Crosbie will be challenged by redshirt freshmen Jesse Fuentes and Steve Mullins, as well as Logan Galli and Brian Benza.

Defensive strengths: A star returns at each of the three main positions, but there are holes to fill too. End Caleb Smith, who had 15 tackles for losses last season, provides needed leadership on the line. Linebacker Brent Passey was a first-

team All-Big West pick; he had 107 tackles, including a two-game stretch with 34 tackles. The secondary includes cornerback Tony Walker, one of the better coverage men in the Big West, and Donald Dicko, who is capable of playing free safety or strong safety.

Defensive weaknesses: The defense lost four of its best players, including tackle Walter Fiefla and end Lindsay Hassell, both All-Big West selections. Middle linebacker Tony D'Amato, last season's Big West defensive player of the year, and safety John Dale Carty also are gone. That doesn't bode well for the Aggies against the top three teams in the Big West, which all have experienced and sizeable offensive lines.

Special teams: Brad Bohn is one of the best kickers in the nation—he made 24 of 28 field-goal attempts, including a 51-yarder, last season. Walker is a dual threat as a kick and punt

returner; he averaged 25.4 yards per kick return last year.

Key to success: Brown needs to stay healthy. Injuries have curtailed his performance each of the past two years (971 yards rushing in 1997, 846 in '98).

Outlook: Utah State plays Idaho and Nevada on the road, which certainly won't aid the Aggies' chances of contending for the Big West title. Look for Utah State to finish in the middle of the pack.

*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Georgia
S11—S. F. Austin
S18—at Utah
O1—Brigham Young
O9—Arkansas State
O16—at Kansas St.
O23—at Idaho
O30—Boise State
N6—New Mexico St.
N20—at Nevada
N27—at North Texas

AGGIES DATA

Site: Logan
Coach: Dave Arslanian (3-8, 1 year; 56-55 overall, 10 years)
1993 record: 3-8; Big West: 2-3 (tie 4th)
Field: Romney (30,257)
Last league title won: 1997

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Adrian Pierson	6-1	192	Sr.
T	Ben Holbrook	6-6	297	Sr.
G	Jess Schuck	6-2	302	So.
C	Junior Pututau	6-2	287	Jr.
G	Mike Lindsay	6-2	313	Sr.
T	Matt Lance	6-4	283	Sr.
TE	Bucky Orton	6-4	239	Sr.
WR	Aaron Jones	6-0	187	Jr.
WR	Artavias Thompkins	6-2	202	So.
QB	Jeff Crosbie	6-5	192	So.
RB	Demario Brown	6-1	213	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Lance Sopoaga	6-1	254	Sr.
T	Doug Madoski	6-2	272	Sr.
T	Vaea Fiefla	6-0	252	Sr.
E	Caleb Smith	6-4	268	Jr.
OLB	Brent Passey	6-1	231	Jr.
MLB	Tony Newson	6-1	234	Jr.
OLB	Blake Eagal	6-2	230	Jr.
CB	Vashon Garmon	6-1	196	Sr.
SS	Aminifu Johnson	5-8	188	So.
FS	Donald Dicko	5-11	195	Sr.
CB	Tony Walker	5-11	183	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Brad Bohn	5-7	177	Jr.
P	Steve Mullins	6-4	211	Fr.

5 New Mexico State

**NATIONAL
RANK
103**

Offensive strengths:

This will be the Aggies' third season running the option offense, and the comfort level is starting to show. Smart and savvy quarterback Ty

Houghtaling has become a decent passer, but his true worth shows when he is running. Four offensive linemen are back. Three in particular have grown quite nicely into the system: Jason Berger, George Hudson and Matt Hancock. Tony Wragge played well as a freshman last year. Wide receiver Ryan Shaw has shown a nose for the end zone and a knack for getting open on play-action passes.

Offensive weaknesses: A replacement must be found for bowling-ball running back Denvis Manns, who dominated the past four seasons. The probable candidate is sophomore Kenton Keith, who turned down Nebraska and opted for New Mexico State. Both fullbacks have graduated.

Defensive strengths: Tackle Tim Engelhardt was a rock in the middle last season. He should have more help on the line in the form of Brad Glover, a transfer from Arizona who

is ideal for the defense's attacking style.

Defensive weaknesses: Nine starters return, but not all will win back their spots.

Improvement is particularly needed at cornerback and end, positions where starters return. The top four players return at cornerback, but the outlook scared the coaches enough that they recruited five defensive backs, including two junior college transfers who were enrolled in time for spring drills. Glover will help at one end spot, but another lineman is needed.

Special teams: Nick Cecava is an excellent kicker, but the rest of the special teams need to improve. That should happen as coach Tony Samuel continues to upgrade the team's overall athletic ability.

Key to success: It has to be somewhat disconcerting to base your offense on the running game, yet not have an experienced fullback to hand off to in the middle or an experienced tailback to

pitch to on the outside. Keith is supposed to be the real deal, and the Aggies will need him to be.

Outlook: Samuel's record doesn't indicate the strides New Mexico State has made in his two seasons in Las Cruces. Enthusiasm has returned to the community and the team. The Aggies are back to a competitive level—but even if the running game comes around, the defense is too weak to mount a serious challenge for the Big West title.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S2—N. Mex. Highlands
S11—at New Mexico
S18—at Arizona State
S25—at Tex.-El Paso
O2—at Colorado St.
O9—Nevada
O23—at Army
O30—Idaho
N6—at Utah State
N13—at Boise State
N20—North Texas

AGGIES DATA

Site: Las Cruces

Coach: Tony Samuel (5-17, 2 years)

1998 record: 3-8; Big West: 1-4 (6th)

Field: Aggie Memorial (grass, 30,343)

Last league title won: 1978 (Missouri Valley)

PROJECTED STARTERS OFFENSE

WR	Ryan Shaw	6-3	185	Sr.
T	Mick Rodemeyer	6-3	320	Jr.
G	George Hudson	6-4	305	Sr.
C	Matt Hancock	6-0	285	Sr.
G	Tony Wragge	6-3	291	So.
T	Jason Berger	6-3	287	Sr.
TE	Marcellus McCray	6-2	230	Jr.
WR	Robert Garth	6-4	210	Sr.
QB	Ty Houghtaling	6-2	200	Sr.
TB	Kenton Keith	5-10	190	So.
FB	Corey Lucas	6-1	220	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	*Jeremy Evenhus	6-2	219	Fr.
T	Tim Engelhardt	6-2	278	Sr.
NT	Tye Fraembs	6-2	263	Sr.
E	Mike Boganowski	6-3	230	Jr.
OLB	D'Wayne Taylor	6-0	190	So.
MLB	Waylon Waters	6-0	227	Sr.
OLB	Raul Anaya	6-0	200	Sr.
CB	Jascon Willis	5-10	160	Jr.
SS	Marsey Hawley	5-9	175	Jr.
FS	Donald Malloy	5-9	180	Jr.
CB	Melvin McClendon	5-8	175	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Nick Cecava	6-0	195	Sr.
P	Andy Kohl	6-4	210	Jr.

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6 North Texas

NATIONAL RANK
107

Offensive strengths:

Junior tailback Ja'Quay Wilburn, who rushed for 501 yards in the final three games last season, gives the Eagles a focus to their offense.

Freshman quarterback Spencer Stack has potential; he passed for more than 4,000 yards and 47 touchdowns as a high school senior.

Offensive weaknesses: The Eagles lost four starters on the offensive line, they haven't had a decent quarterback since joining the Big West three years ago, and their wide receivers are inexperienced. Stack will challenge last year's starter, Jason Attaway. The other quarterback with experience, LaDarrin McLane, has been moved to wide receiver. That position is so thin McLane likely will be a starter.

Defensive strengths: Second-team All-Big West pick Corbin Montgomery, who had seven sacks last season, returns at end. There is strength behind him at linebacker, where three starters return, and more talent is awaiting playing time. The leader is speedy Fred Pertile (86 tackles in 1998). Free safety Ramone Archie is the star of the

secondary. Archie continued to start last season after suffering a separated shoulder early in the season.

Defensive weaknesses: The line doesn't have much more than Montgomery. Five players who had just 30 tackles among them last season are competing for two starting spots. North Texas has a tradition of good play in the secondary. A few players need to step up if that is to continue.

Special teams: This is a perennially strong area. Two-time all-conference punter John Baker is back and healthy. Last season he averaged 46.8 yards per punt before suffering a foot injury after the sixth game and 38 yards after that. The kicker is freshman Dan Walker, who made three field goals from more than 50 yards as a senior in high school. Broderick McGrew was the best return specialist in the league last year.

Key to success: The new players on offense have to mature quickly. The defense is good

enough to keep the team in most Big West games, but the inexperience on offense—especially on the line—could hinder the Eagles' chance of a winning record.

Outlook: The coaches are practically starting from scratch on offense, something that isn't a good sign when the league favorites consider 30 points a good half's work. The Eagles will win between two and four games and fall into the second division.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S2—UNLV
S11—at Louisiana St.
S18—at Texas Tech
O2—at Baylor
O9—at Idaho
O16—Boise State
O23—Arkansas State
O30—at Nevada
N13—at Tex. Christian
N20—at N. Mexico St.
N27—Utah State

EAGLES DATA

Site: Denton
Coach: Darrell Dickey (3-8, 1 year)
1998 record: 3-8;
Big West: 3-2 (tie 2nd)
Field: Fouts Field (turf, 30,500)
Last league title won: 1994 (Southland)

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Broderick McGrew	6-3	204	Sr.
T	Marlon Lee	6-2	260	Jr.
G	Josh Kay	6-2	285	Jr.
C	Andrew Lott	6-2	309	So.
G	David Morgan	6-3	283	So.
T	Vince Patterson	6-6	304	Sr.
TE	Ron Sterling	6-5	245	Sr.
WR	LaDarrin McLane	6-2	198	Jr.
QB	Jason Attaway	6-1	195	Sr.
TB	Ja'Quay Wilburn	5-10	188	Jr.
FB	Dustin Dean	5-10	200	So.

DEFENSE

E	Corbin Montgomery	6-0	247	Sr.
DT	Chance Adair	6-4	261	Sr.
NG	Zeb Cornist	6-5	270	Sr.
E	Derek Gordon	6-0	226	Jr.
OLB	Fred Pertile	6-0	190	Jr.
MLB	Jeff Rodgers	6-1	233	Jr.
OLB	Brad Kassell	6-3	227	So.
CB	Detron Woodson	6-0	183	Sr.
SS	Heath Moody	6-1	204	Jr.
FS	Ramone Archie	5-11	184	Sr.
CB	Kendrick Sapp	5-9	163	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Dan Walker	5-11	165	Fr.
P	John Baker	6-3	212	Sr.

7 Arkansas State

NATIONAL RANK
110

Offensive strengths:

Quarterback Cleo Lemon has set passing records in Jonesboro and should feel right at home as Arkansas State moves into the Big West

Conference, which is known for its passing attacks. Running back Lamont Zachery has breakaway speed, and sophomore Jonathan Adams has fine credentials. The Indians need one—or both—to have a breakout season. There is speed, if not experience, at wide receiver. Tight end Ron Teat is known as "The Receiving Machine." The description fits him.

Offensive weaknesses: The Indians gave up 37 sacks and rushed for a school-record low in yardage last season. Arkansas State will rely on several youngsters to pick up the slack on the offensive front, with leadership from tough-guy senior Patrick Birdwell. They need to protect Lemon, who has been sacked 61 times in 20 games. He won't have record-setting wide receiver Lennie Johnson to throw to anymore. That hurts almost as much as those blind-side hits Lemon keeps taking.

Defensive strengths: All four

linebackers return, though versatile Reggie Cooley likely will be utilized at free safety. Sean Mitchell is small for a safety, but he had 126 tackles last year.

Defensive weaknesses: The Indians say they signed the best recruiting class in school history, and some of that talent will have to play right away: Last year Arkansas State played two Big West teams—and gave up 83 points. Particularly troubling is the fact that all three starters are gone from the defensive line, which really wasn't that good to begin with.

Special teams: Robert Kilow will return after averaging 26.6 yards per kickoff return last year. Punter Ryan Smith's leg almost fell off from exhaustion last season (he made 74 punts), but he averaged 41.9 yards.

Key to success: Arkansas State's hopes will begin—and quite possibly end—on the offensive line. You have to be able to score to be competi-

tive in the Big West, and it's difficult to do that if your quarterback is constantly running for his life and the running backs don't have any daylight.

Outlook: There isn't a better conference than the Big West to jump into if your program is struggling, so maybe things won't be that bad for Arkansas State. Most likely, however, the Indians are two years away. By then, all their newly recruited talent should be ready to contribute.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Illinois
S11—at Mississippi
S18—at Memphis
S25—Texas Christian
O2—Sam Houston
O9—at Utah State
O16—Idaho
O23—at North Texas
O30—SW Louisiana
N6—at Boise State
N13—Nevada

INDIANS DATA

Site: Jonesboro
Coach: Joe Hollis (6-17, 2 years; 10-23-1 overall, 3 years)
1998 record: 4-8 (independent status)
Field: Indian Stadium (grass, 33,410)
Last post-season appearance: 1987

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	J.J. Washington	6-0	200	Sr.
T	Garrick Jones	6-4	303	So.
G	Jamie Pond	6-3	308	Jr.
C	Jack Wright	6-1	270	Jr.
G	*John Crossley	6-2	318	Fr.
T	Patrick Birdwell	6-4	282	Sr.
TE	Ron Teat	6-3	256	Sr.
WR	Robert Kilow	5-11	163	Jr.
QB	Cleo Lemon	6-2	215	Jr.
TB	Jonathan Adams	6-0	222	So.
FB	Jacques Walker	6-0	242	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	MaQuonzie Thomas	6-2	260	Sr.
NT	Lance Miller	5-11	265	Sr.
E	Duane Alvin	6-3	271	Sr.
OLB	James Mormon	6-2	242	Jr.
ILB	Segun Ajigbada	6-2	232	Jr.
ILB	Andy Henault	6-2	246	Sr.
OLB	Michael Bailey	5-11	212	Sr.
CB	Hanis Bowens	5-9	162	Jr.
SS	Sean Mitchell	5-9	190	Jr.
FS	Reggie Cooley	6-2	219	Sr.
CB	Kishan Cotton	5-10	188	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Nick Gatto	6-0	186	Jr.
P	Ryan Smith	6-2	215	Sr.

SCOUTING

Big West

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Trevor Insley, Nevada	6-1	195	Sr.
WR	Ryan Prestimonico, Idaho	5-9	177	Sr.
TE	Darin Higgins, Nevada	6-4	225	Sr.
T	Rick DeMulling, Idaho	6-5	269	Jr.
T	Ben Holbrook, Utah State	6-6	297	Sr.
G	Mike Lindsay, Utah State	6-2	313	Sr.
G	Jeremy Mankins, Boise State	6-5	324	Sr.
C	Ryan Scuffy, Nevada	6-2	285	Sr.
QB	David Neill, Nevada	6-5	200	So.
RB	Chris Lemon, Nevada	5-11	200	Sr.
RB	Ja'Quay Wilburn, North Texas	5-10	188	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Corbin Montgomery, North Texas	6-0	247	Sr.
T	Tim Engelhardt, New Mexico State	6-2	278	Sr.
T	Mao Tosi, Idaho	6-6	270	Sr.
E	Ryan Knowles, Idaho	6-3	250	So.
LB	Bryan Johnson, Boise State	6-1	228	Sr.
LB	Jason Burk, Nevada	6-1	235	Sr.
LB	Brent Passey, Utah State	6-1	231	Jr.
CB	Dennis Gibbs, Idaho	5-10	170	Jr.
CB	Dempsey Dees, Boise State	5-10	174	Jr.
S	Maxzell Williams, Nevada	5-11	185	Sr.
S	Ramone Archie, North Texas	5-11	184	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Brad Bohn, Utah State	5-7	177	Jr.
P	John Baker, North Texas	6-3	212	Sr.
KR	Broderick McGrew, North Texas	6-3	204	Sr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer:	Tyree Clowe, RB, Idaho
Top defensive newcomer:	Brad Glove, E, N. Mex. St.
Best offensive backfield:	Nevada
Best wide receivers:	Nevada
Best offensive line:	Boise State
Best defensive line:	Idaho
Best linebackers:	Idaho
Best secondary:	Boise State
Best special teams:	North Texas
Hardest hitter:	Bryan Johnson, LB, Boise State
Best backup QB:	Erik Stidham, Nevada
Best pro prospect:	Mao Tosi, DT, Idaho
Best game-day atmosphere:	Boise State

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- 1. Nevada:** The Wolf Pack traditionally redshirt freshmen, so the impact won't be felt immediately on the field. But it should be big. Nevada is confident enough in its returning talent that it built for the future, signing just one junior college transfer. QB Chad Satterwhite and DE Leni Suianoa were the top signees.
- 2. Boise State:** OL Jason Turner visited Notre Dame, Iowa and Oregon before settling on Boise State. Another to watch is QB Ryan Dinwiddie, who passed for 4,358 yards and 56 TDs over the past two seasons.

The power teams in the conference—Boise State, Nevada, Utah State and New Mexico State—are openly acknowledging that they would love to be invited to the Western Athletic Conference. If two or more leave, the Big West might be out of the football business. Conditions improved some with the addition of the Humanitarian Bowl and Arkansas State, but this remains the weakest I-A league. At this point, it would be happy (and fortunate) to stay that way.

Ascending: New Mexico State. The Aggies shocked the league last year by upsetting Nevada, and more surprises might be on the way. Coach Tony Samuel's option attack takes a while to incorporate, especially in regard to getting the necessary depth on the offensive line. As those things improve, so will the Aggies.

Descending: Utah State. There was a bit of grumbling among fans last year after the team's disappointing performance. The Aggies have slipped from 1997 conference champion to a team that is decidedly behind Nevada, Idaho and Boise State.

Best Matchup: Idaho at Nevada, November 6. This game has a lot of things to love: the two best teams, the two best quarterbacks, the two best receivers. It should decide the Big West championship and resulting Humanitarian Bowl berth.

Biggest Shoes to Fill: New Mexico State's Kenton Keith is in line to replace Dennis Manns, who left Las Cruces as a four-time 1,000-yard rusher. The Aggies' success rests heavily on Keith.

Most Overrated Player: Gavin Reed, Boise State running back. For years, Broncos fans have heard about how talented Reed is, but they have yet to see it because of injury and academic troubles. Reed has a year left to prove his worth.

Most Underrated Player: Chris Lemon. Talk about Nevada's offense usually centers around its quarterback, the constant rotation of fine receivers and the impressive numbers of the passing game. Hidden amid all that is Lemon, simply the league's best running back.

Best Coach: Chris Tormey pushed all the right buttons last year for Idaho. His call for a two-point conversion against Boise State in overtime gave the Vandals the Big

3. Idaho: RB Tyree Clowe rushed for 2,318 yards for a Spokane, Wash., high school last year. LB Jason Williams is a good one.

4. Arkansas State: The Indians say this is the best recruiting class in school history. RB Jamie Hickenbotham and LB Jonathan Bradley are the prime recruits.

5. New Mexico State: The Aggies signed nine junior college transfers, and several need to help now. RB Walter Taylor and S Frank Linden have promise.

6. Utah State: RB David Fiefia ran for 1,600 yards and 24 TDs last year and was Utah's high school player of the year.

7. North Texas: OL Josh Kay and Marlon Lee, both junior college transfers, are expected to be starters.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

David Neill is coming off one of the greatest freshman seasons in college football history. "Last year, there was no pressure," says the Nevada



David Neill,
Nevada

quarterback. "I was a new guy coming in and winging it. This year, there's going to be pressure on my shoulders. I'll deal with it and learn and go on."

Neill thought he might redshirt last season. But with the two quarterbacks in front of him struggling, he became the starter by the third game. Neill threw an NCAA freshman-record 29 touchdown passes and established a game mark of 611 yards against New Mexico State. After throwing for 3,249 yards, Neill is TSN's preseason Big West offensive player of the year.

Nevada couldn't overcome two early-season losses last season. Idaho—which the Wolf Pack had beaten 58-23 in Moscow—won the Big West title and the Humanitarian Bowl. An even lower point occurred for Neill when he was arrested for using a stolen phone card. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor.

"I let my teammates down, and I have to make smarter decisions," Neill says. "I notice a lot of people are counting on me."

—Mark Anderson

West title on their archrivals' home field. A month later, the Vandals upended 16-point favorite Southern Mississippi in the Humanitarian Bowl. That was a huge accomplishment for a team that was 112th in 112-team Division I in TSN's 1998 preseason rankings.

Best staff: Idaho. It can't be easy to recruit to Moscow. Yet the coaches get the athletes there—and they know what to do with them once they arrive.

Coach on the hot seat: Jeff Tisdell of Nevada. Reno fans are restless after Tisdell's third season, in part because they expect to win the Big West every year. Tisdell has a multiyear contract, but don't be fooled—Nevada athletics revolves around football, and another disappointing season might be Tisdell's last.

Odds and ends: Idaho will play its home games this year at Washington State's Martin Stadium, eight miles from Idaho's Moscow campus. The Vandals must average 17,000 fans as their final hurdle in achieving permanent Division I-A status. Idaho is working with an extension that allows it to play under I-A rules—and be eligible for the Humanitarian Bowl—until its membership status is solidified. ... Because of scheduling problems between Arkansas State and New Mexico State, two non-conference games will count in the Big West standings this year: Arkansas State's game with Southwestern Louisiana and New Mexico State's game with Texas-El Paso. —Stephen Dodge

INDEPENDENTS

TEAM REPORTS PROVIDED BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

What they did in 1998				What they've done in 1990s			
	W-L	Pts.	Opp.	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Central Florida	9-2	393	209	63-39	.618	3,814	1,845
Notre Dame	9-3	328	248	79-28-2	.725	3,280	2,004
Louisiana Tech	6-6	493	402	52-46-3	.515	2,695	2,482
Northeast Louisiana	5-6	227	322	53-50-1	.509	2,623	2,743
Navy	3-8	255	376	38-62	.380	2,123	2,807
Southwestern Louisiana	2-9	199	453	37-61-1	.374	1,988	2,993
*Middle Tennessee State	5-5	250	256	65-38-1	.625	3,007	1,881
* First year in Division I-A							

INDEPENDENTS

IN A NUTSHELL

TSN PREDICTIONS	SEASON KEYS Offensive, defensive	Best offensive players	Best defensive players	BIG GAMES non-conference, conference
1. NOTRE DAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four new line starters must develop. Shaky LB corps needs to mature quickly. 	C John Merandi QB Jarious Jackson	E Lamont Bryant FS Deke Cooper	Sept. 4 at Michigan Nov. 6 at Tennessee
2. LOUISIANA TECH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QB Tim Rattay needs ample protection. Stout line must stuff the run. 	QB Tim Rattay RB Bobby Ray Tell	NG Otis Pitts T Jarrett Procell	Sept. 4 vs. Texas A&M Oct. 2 at SW Louisiana
3. NORTHEAST LOUISIANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inexperience at skill spots could be a problem. Veteran front seven must be aggressive. 	C Shane Pittard FB Kond Allen	CB Pat Dennis E Jonathan Foster	Sept. 11 at Minnesota Oct. 16 vs. Wyoming
4. NAVY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground game must again dominate. Weak line, lack of speed may be costly. 	C Terrence Anderson QB Brian Broadwater	S Jamie Doffermyre P Tray Calisch	Sept. 4 vs. Georgia Tech Dec. 4 vs. Army
5. CENTRAL FLORIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A QB and line have big holes to fill. Strong line, fast DBs must carry big load. 	WR Kenny Clark WR Charles Lee	T Justen Moore SS Damian Demps	Sept. 4 vs. Purdue Nov. 6 at Auburn
6. SW LOUISIANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaky line may collapse. LBs and DBs need to cover for iffy line. 	TB Darren Brister WR Desmond Williams	P Chris Shaw LB Dwayne Viator	Sept. 11 vs. Texas Tech Oct. 16 at Tulane
7. MIDDLE TENNESSEE ST.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill-position talent must shine. Soft line could be man-handled. 	QB Wes Counts WR Kendall Newson	FS Mario Kelso LB Keith Paulido	Sept. 25 at SW Louisiana Nov. 13 vs. Central Florida

Notre Dame

NATIONAL RANK
20

Site: South Bend, Ind.
Coach: Bob Davie (16-9, 2 years)
Offensive coordinator: Kevin Rogers (1st season)
Defensive coordinator: Greg Mattison (3rd season)
Offensive scheme: multiple
Defensive scheme: 4-3
Starters lost: 12
Lettermen lost: 25
Lettermen returning: 38
Stadium: Notre Dame (grass, 80,012)
Last time didn't go to bowl: 1996
1998 TSN rank: 23rd
1998 record: 9-3 (lost to Georgia Tech in Gator Bowl)

1998 RESULTS

Michigan, W 36-20
at Michigan State, L 45-23
Purdue, W 31-30
Stanford, W 35-17
at Arizona State, W 28-9
Army, W 20-17
Baylor, W 27-3
at Boston College, W 31-26
at Navy, W 30-0
Louisiana State, W 39-36
at So. California, L 10-0
Georgia Tech, L 35-28

SCHEDULE

A28—Kansas
S4—at Michigan
S11—at Purdue
S18—Michigan State
O2—Oklahoma
O9—Arizona State
O16—Southern California
O30—Navy
N6—at Tennessee
N13—at Pittsburgh
N20—Boston College
N27—at Stanford

Quarterbacks: If Jarious Jackson had not hurt his knee last year, the Irish probably would have beaten Southern California and earned \$11 million by playing in a Bowl Championship Series game. With Jackson in the lineup, the Irish can execute Bob Davie's multiple offense effectively, taking

advantage of Jackson's mobility to spread the field on sprints, rolls and the option. Replacing Jim Colletto with Syracuse coordinator Kevin Rogers is a big plus; Rogers has built several potent attacks with similar blueprints. Look for backup Arnaz Battle more this year, since he is the key to the future.

Running backs: With all-time leading rusher Autry Denson gone, Tony Driver moves back to tailback from safety. He'll battle Tony Fisher and Darcey Levy. The three should provide plenty of productivity.

Receivers: Last year's leading receiver, Malcolm Johnson, is gone, leaving no player who caught more than 15 passes last season. It's time for heralded recruits such as Raki Nelson, David Givens and Javin Hunter to produce. Senior Bobby Brown will figure in the mix, as will Joey Getherall. Freshman Jamaar Taylor may be better than all of them. Tight end Jabari Holloway has potential but needs consistency.

Offensive line: With familiar names like Mike Rosenthal, Luke Petitgout and Jerry Wisne gone, there is a dearth of experience. Senior center John Merandi and guard Mike Gandy will be joined by mammoth Jordan Black at one tackle and John Teasdale at the other. Kurt Vollers should get the other guard spot. This group has potential and size, but it will need time to develop.

Defensive line: Notre Dame is moving to a four-man alignment because of depth; the coaches plan to use an eight-man rotation. Grant Irons moves from outside linebacker to end, where Anthony Weaver and Lamont Bryant are stalwarts. Lance Legree, Brad Williams and Antwon Jones will rotate at tackle. Davie can't wait to see freshman tackle Cedric Hilliard, who could be the run-stuffer the Irish have lacked.

Linebackers: Inexperience prevails, but Davie is optimistic. Expect Anthony Denman to move from the outside to the middle and make an impact, with Ronnie Nicks, Tyreo Harrison, Hugh Holmes and Carlos Pierre-Antoine offering support. Joey Ferrer and Rocky Boiman will man the outside spot. Depth is iffy.

Secondary: Even though Driver is back on offense, this area is in good shape. Deveron Harper and Brock Williams are returning starters at the corners, and A'Jani Sanders and Deke Cooper handle the safety spots. Despite the familiar names, Notre Dame needs more production than last year, when the secondary

grabbed just nine interceptions. That's why talented freshman Gerome Sapp will get a good look in nickel situations and could be starting by the end of the year.

Special teams: This is a problem area. The Irish grapple with protection issues, accuracy problems on kicks and finding a replacement for punter Hunter Smith. Incumbent kicker Jim Sanson will be challenged by freshmen Nick Setta—recruited primarily as Smith's replacement—and Joey Hildbold. Driver is a capable kick returner, and Getherall is a sure-handed punt returner.



New address: After shifting from inside to outside linebacker last year, Irons is on the move again, this time to end.

Schedule: The Irish face another whopper. They agreed to play host to Kansas in the Eddie Robinson Classic to give themselves a tuneup before visiting Michigan and Purdue. Arizona State and Southern California visit South Bend on consecutive October Saturdays as part of a five-game homestand. November begins with a trip to Tennessee.

Coaching: The energetic Davie has done a good job changing the attitude and culture of the program. He has surrounded himself with some talented assistants, most notably Rogers and defensive whiz Greg Mattison.

Outlook: The Irish are a year from big things, although Davie isn't writing off this season. Despite the tough schedule, the potential for 10 wins looms. The lines need to dominate and playmakers must emerge.

FIGHTING IRISH DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Bobby Brown	6-2	193	Sr.	Jay Johnson	6-0	191	Sr.
T	John Teasdale	6-6	306	Jr.	Casey Robin	6-7	311	Jr.
G	Mike Gandy	6-4	288	Sr.	Jeff Roehl	6-5	290	So.
C	John Merandi	6-3	299	Sr.	JW Jordan	6-1	277	Jr.
G	Kurt Vollers	6-7	299	Jr.	Jim Jones	6-3	307	Sr.
T	Jordan Black	6-6	313	So.	Matt Brennan	6-6	305	Sr.
TE	Jabari Holloway	6-4	258	Jr.	Dan O'Leary	6-4	251	Jr.
WR	Raki Nelson	5-11	183	Sr.	Joey Getherall	5-7	176	Jr.
QB	Jarius Jackson	6-1	228	Sr.	Arnaz Battle	6-1	207	So.
RB	Tony Driver	6-1	214	Jr.	Tony Fisher	6-2	223	So.
FB	Joey Goodspeed	6-0	242	Sr.	Jason Murray	6-1	260	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Lamont Bryant	6-3	260	Sr.	Jason Ching	6-3	260	Sr.
T	Brad Williams	6-4	288	Sr.	B.J. Scott	6-3	271	Sr.
T	Lance Legree	6-1	296	Sr.	Antwon Jones	6-2	283	Sr.
E	Grant Irons	6-5	263	Jr.	Anthony Weaver	6-3	261	So.
OLB	Joey Ferrer	6-2	235	Sr.	Rocky Boiman	6-4	238	So.
ILB	Anthony Denman	6-2	230	Jr.	Hugh Holmes	6-1	223	Jr.
ILB	Ronnie Nicks	6-0	238	Sr.	Tyreo Harrison	6-2	232	So.
CB	Deveron Harper	5-11	187	Sr.	Donald Dykes	5-11	197	So.
SS	A'Jani Sanders	5-10	193	Sr.	Lee Lafayette	5-9	196	Sr.
FS	Deke Cooper	6-2	219	Sr.	Ron Israel	6-0	205	Jr.
CB	Brock Williams	5-10	190	Jr.	Clifford Jefferson	5-9	178	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jim Sanson	5-9	187	Sr.	P	David Miller	5-11	190	So.
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*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

Louisiana Tech

**NATIONAL
RANK
52**

Offensive strengths:

Tim Rattay passed for 4,943 yards and 46 touchdowns last year. Unless new coach Jack Bicknell III is crazy, the senior will air it out

again. Rattay will throw to a deep stable of wideouts, starting with sophomores James Jordan and Delwyn Daigre. Tailbacks John Simon and Bobby Ray Tell have some speed and should get an increased workload.

Offensive weaknesses: One of Bicknell's goals in spring practice was to install a power running component, so the offensive line must go from finesse pass blockers to smash-mouth tough guys.

Defensive strengths: Bicknell has been impressed with senior tackles Jarrett Procell and Otis Pitts. End Jerome King has promise but played last year with a separated shoulder. Expect big tackle totals from middle linebacker Damon Harrington and strong safety Bobby Gray.

Defensive weaknesses: Bicknell can point to last year's schedule as a reason Tech gave up so many points (33.5 a game), but the shaky personnel had something to do with it,

too. The team was particularly awful against the run, and Bicknell hopes a deeper front can help that. He recruited three junior college backs to help a secondary that quarterbacks torched for a .565 completion percentage last year.

Special teams: Trent Wierick made all six of his field-goal attempts last year, but only one was longer than 30 yards. Junior Calib Price and sophomore John Pruitt shared punting duties, and neither was impressive. The loss of wideout Troy Edwards hurts the return game. Bicknell needs Sean Cangelosi to improve on last year's 4.7-yard punt return average. Many will compete to return kicks, with Cangelosi and Tell the most familiar names.

Key to success: The team must get tougher along both lines. Tech needs to run the ball effectively and stop rivals from pushing it around.

Outlook: Rattay's return assures fireworks, even without Edwards. Daigre and Jordan will do fine, and there are more where they came from.

Expect Tech to run more effectively, if only because Bicknell is dedicated to improving the offensive line. The defense will be better, but let's not expect miracles. The defensive front is solid, but the team lacks depth and needs to cultivate playmakers. If Tech finishes better than 6-5, Bicknell should consider his first season a success.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

A28—at Florida State
S4—Texas A&M
S11—Sam Houston St.
S18—at Alabama*
O2—at SW Louisiana
O16—Mid. Tenn. St.
O23—at C. Florida
O30—at Toledo
N6—NE Louisiana
N13—at Ala.-Birmingham
N26—at So. California
*at Birmingham

Northeast Louisiana

**NATIONAL
RANK
82**

Offensive strengths:

Bobby Keasler's teams ran the ball at McNeese State, and they'll do it at Northeast Louisiana. Speedy fifth-year senior Mike Mitchell and

Arkansas transfer Mark Henderson will run behind a tougher line, led by center Shane Pittard. Wideout Derrick Bridges impressed in '96 and '97 before slumping last year.

Offensive weaknesses: Keasler likes quarterback Andy Chance's versatility, but the redshirt freshman has no experience. Don't be surprised if junior college transfer Darryl Carter, who missed spring practice because of shoulder surgery, gets a close look. Northeast must replace wideouts Marty Booker and Tony Akins, who combined for 103 catches and 15 touchdowns last year. Four starters return on the line, but Northeast averaged just 86.8 rushing yards a game last year.

Defensive strengths: Junior cornerback Pat Dennis had seven interceptions and 75 tackles last year, and safety Nate Jones had 118 stops. Up front, senior end Jonathan Foster had 13 tackles for lost yardage and seven sacks. Look for Joey Marzula,

a strong, quick transfer from Southern Mississippi, to be the strong safety.

Defensive weaknesses: It's thin up front after Foster and tackle Donald Malveaux. Northeast opponents passed for 23 TDs and completed 56.6 percent of their passes in 1998.

Special teams: Due to last year's anemic offense, Cory Babineaux had only six field-goal attempts. Still, his loss will be felt. Sophomore Justin Mink, who handled kickoffs last year, will get the first shot at the job. Senior punter John White, who averaged a mediocre 39.8 yards last year, will compete for kicking work, too. Mitchell must step in for the departed Akins and Booker as a return man.

Key to success: Establish a ground attack that can keep the defense fresh and take pressure off Chance. The offensive front must get tougher and push around defensive lines.

Outlook: Keasler was an assistant on the Northeast staff that directed the team to the 1987 I-AA championship. The Indians are in the big leagues now and have little chance to hang with the better teams on their schedule (Minnesota, Arkansas, Utah, Wyoming). Expect a more physical team that runs better and is improved on defense—don't look for an aerial circus. Hiring Keasler is a good step, and a .500 record is possible, but Northeast needs a talent upgrade.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—Nicholls State
S11—at Minnesota
S18—at Arkansas*
S25—Northwestern St.
O2—at Ala.-Birmingham
O9—at Utah
O16—Wyoming
O23—at SW Louisiana
O30—M. Tennessee St.
N6—at Louisiana Tech
N13—at Tulsa
*at Little Rock

BULLDOGS DATA

Site: Ruston
Coach: Jack Bicknell III (first year)
1998 record: 6-6
Field: Joe Aillet (grass, 30,600)
Last bowl appearance: 1990

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Sean Cangelosi	6-4	218	Jr.
T	Joey Chustz	6-7	310	Sr.
G	Randy Richard	6-5	300	So.
C	David St. Marie	6-3	295	Sr.
G	Rob Koontz	6-4	295	Sr.
T	Robert Skapura	6-6	301	Sr.
TE	David Newman	6-7	255	Jr.
WR	Delwyn Daigre	6-1	200	So.
QB	Tim Rattay	6-1	200	Sr.
TB	John Simon	5-10	190	So.
FB	Terry Pratt	6-0	222	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Jerome King	6-4	270	Sr.
T	Jarrett Procell	6-3	275	Sr.
NG	Otis Pitts	6-1	285	Sr.
OLB	Quincy Stewart	6-1	215	Jr.
MLB	Brian Bradford	6-0	210	Sr.
MLB	Damon Harrington	6-1	225	Sr.
OLB	Desmond Nunnery	6-3	255	Sr.
CB	Rodreick Penmetter	5-11	180	Jr.
SS	Bobby Gray	6-1	205	So.
FS	Clint Davis	6-0	180	Sr.
CB	Fred Lewis	5-10	175	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Trent Wierick	6-2	175	So.
P	Calib Price	5-9	160	Jr.

INDIANS DATA

Site: Monroe
Coach: Bobby Keasler (first year; 78-34-2 overall, 9 years)
1998 record: 5-6
Field: Malone (grass, 30,427)
Last postseason appearance: 1993

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Derrick Bridges	6-2	200	Sr.
T	Padraic McGinnis	6-5	325	Jr.
G	Roderick Daniel	6-3	300	Jr.
C	Shane Pittard	6-4	290	Sr.
G	Brian Garrett	6-3	255	Sr.
T	Harvey Goins	6-6	280	Sr.
TE	Chris Spencer	6-4	270	Sr.
WR	Kevin Stephenson	5-11	185	Jr.
QB	*Andy Chance	6-2	205	Fr.
TB	Mike Mitchell	5-8	180	Sr.
FB	Kond Allen	5-8	190	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Jonathan Foster	6-2	250	Sr.
NG	Bobby Bell	6-0	250	So.
T	Donald Malveaux	6-2	280	So.
E	Eric Jones	6-2	260	Sr.
OLB	Otis Robinson	5-10	200	So.
MLB	Desmond Beckwith	6-0	225	Sr.
CB	Pat Dennis	6-0	200	Jr.
RSS	Nate Jones	5-11	195	Sr.
LSS	Cedric Robinson	5-11	200	Jr.
FS	Travis Singleton	5-11	185	Sr.
CB	Henry Whitehead	5-11	180	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Justin Mink	5-8	155	So.
P	John White	6-2	210	Sr.

Navy

NATIONAL
RANK
93**Offensive strengths:**

The Midshipmen are going to run the ball well—everybody knows that. But will they pile up yards the way they did in 1996 and '97,

when they were practically unstoppable, or like last year, when Navy slumped? Quarterback Brian Broadwater showed signs of mastering Charlie Weatherbie's spread attack last year and is an above-average passer. Fullback Raheem Lambert is big and fast, and slotbacks John Vereen and Dre Brittingham have breakaway potential. The line is solid.

Offensive weaknesses: Navy suffered a significant blow this spring when big-play receiver Ryan Read decided academy life wasn't for him. That leaves Travis Williams and Matt O'Donnell outside, and neither has a big-play pedigree. Weatherbie may have to turn to speedy sophomore Harry Spencer. Navy had 25 turnovers last season.

Defensive strengths: After giving up 462.7 yards a game last year, Navy switched from a 4-2-5 scheme to a 3-4. Outside men Geno Fountain and Rashad Jones have

good speed. Sophomore Ryan Hamilton and junior Daryl Hill will handle the inside. Strong safety Jamie Doffermire is a tackling machine, and corner Bas Williams has big potential.

Defensive weaknesses: A new scheme won't solve all the problems. Navy is too light up front and lacks speed in the secondary. That's why opponents gained 4.9 yards a carry and completed 65.7 percent of their passes last year. A 3-4 alignment will allow the smaller Midshipmen to pursue more, but they need help to handle power ground attacks and speed to stay with receivers.

Special teams: Tray Calisch is a reliable punter. Weatherbie is confident that Tim Shubzda, who handled kickoffs last year and was 2 for 2 on field-goal attempts, will be accurate from 40 yards and closer.

Key to success: The new 3-4 defense must stop some people. All but one of Navy's last nine opponents in '98 scored at least 30 points.

SCHEDULE

S4—Georgia Tech
S11—at Kent
S18—Boston College
S25—at Rice
O2—at West Virginia
O9—Air Force
O23—Akron
O30—at Notre Dame
N6—at Rutgers
N13—Tulane
N20—at Hawaii
D4—Army (at Phila.)

Outlook: Now that Navy has eradicated I-AA opponents from its schedule, it must craft a defense capable of handling potent offenses. The fun starts September 4 with Georgia Tech. Boston College, West Virginia, Air Force, Notre Dame and Tulane won't be any easier. Navy must cut back on turnovers and get tougher and more aggressive on defense.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

MIDSHIPMEN DATA

Site: Annapolis, Md.

Coach: Charlie Weatherbie (24-21, 4 years; 39-40 overall, 7 years)

1998 record: 3-8

Field: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial (grass, 30,000)

Last bowl appearance: 1996

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Matt O'Donnell	6-0	207	Sr.
T	Kostas Hatzidakis	6-2	270	Sr.
G	Philip Yeh	6-3	285	Jr.
C	Terrence Anderson	5-11	279	Sr.
G	Jarrett Davies	6-4	275	Sr.
T	Hoot Stahl	6-6	297	Jr.
WR	Travis Williams	6-3	203	Sr.
QB	Brian Broadwater	6-0	194	Jr.
SB	John Vereen	5-10	197	Sr.
SB	Dre Brittingham	5-10	181	So.
FB	Raheem Lambert	5-10	199	So.

DEFENSE

E	Ivan Garvin	6-2	243	Sr.
NT	David Ryno	6-3	276	Sr.
E	Brad Wimsatt	6-4	257	Jr.
OLB	John Chavous	5-10	201	Sr.
LB	Matt Daigneault	6-1	238	Sr.
LB	Ryan Hamilton	6-2	218	So.
OLB	Geno Fountain	6-0	220	Sr.
CB	Davede Alexander	5-9	168	Jr.
SS	Jamie Doffermire	6-1	188	Sr.
FS	Gary Lane	5-11	204	Sr.
CB	Bas Williams	5-10	186	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Tim Shubzda	6-1	192	Sr.
P	Tray Calisch	5-11	185	Sr.

Central Florida

NATIONAL
RANK
101**Offensive strengths:**

Wideouts Kenny Clark and Charles Lee combined to catch 86 passes last year despite playing behind standouts Siaha Burley and Mark

Nonsant. Britt McGriff is ready to help, and freshman Ellis Debrow could be a star if he doesn't decide to play pro baseball. The tailback position could be the strongest it has been in years. Center Chris Lorenti and strong tackle Frank Haynes are proven performers.

Offensive weaknesses: Replacing star quarterback Daunte Culpepper won't be easy. Junior Kelvin Robinson has great athletic skills and a big arm, and senior transfer Chris Ryan has good tools, but neither distinguished himself in the spring. Junior college transfer Victor Penn, who brings maturity and experience (he made the SEC all-freshman team at South Carolina in 1997), will get every chance to start. The line, which includes three new starters, is woefully inexperienced.

Defensive strengths: The Knights go eight deep up front, with tackle Justen Moore leading the way. They have great speed in the secondary.

They have 5-8 cornerback Jeff Fye, who plays like he's 6-2 and hits like a wrecking ball. Junior Damian Damps is a productive strong safety. Coach Mike Kruczek is optimistic about junior college transfer Travis Fisher at cornerback.

Defensive weaknesses: Devine will have two new starters flanking him, and neither can be considered star material. The free safety spot is shaky, with juniors Tyrell Rice and Tommy Shavers trying to distinguish themselves.

Special teams: Sophomore punter Javier Beorlegui flashed some potential during the second half of last season but needs to improve his consistency. The kicking role should fall to true freshman Gabe Leavitt. The return men are undetermined, thanks to the graduation of Burley and Paul Miranda. Tailback Edward Mack has some experience returning kicks. Don't be surprised if Debrow gets a chance here.

SCHEDULE

S4—Purdue
S11—at Florida
S18—at Georgia Tech
S25—at Georgia
O2—Eastern Illinois
O16—Nicholls State
O23—Louisiana Tech
O30—E. Michigan
N6—at Auburn
N13—at Mid. Tenn. St.
N20—Bowling Green

Key to success: Kruczek must decide on Culpepper's successor early, or an offense that depends on quick decisions and precision under center will falter.

Outlook: Last year the Knights were talking about a bowl bid. This season they're looking to the future. The team speed and talent are much improved, but uncertainty at quarterback and on the offensive front will make it tough for Central Florida to crack .500.

*Returning starters in bold * Redshirt

KNIGHTS DATA

Site: Orlando

Coach: Mike Kruczek (9-2, 1 year)

1998 record: 9-2

Field: Florida Citrus Bowl (grass, 70,188)

Last postseason appearance: 1993 I-AA playoffs

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Charles Lee	6-2	205	Sr.
T	Frank Haynes	6-7	320	Sr.
G	Kurt Baumann	6-5	300	Jr.
C	Chris Lorenti	6-5	320	Jr.
G	John Beauchamp	6-4	285	Jr.
T	David Wilson	6-6	310	Sr.
TE	Joey Hubbard	6-3	250	Sr.
WR	Kenny Clark	6-1	210	Jr.
QB	Victor Penn	6-1	175	Jr.
RB	Edward Mack	5-9	180	Jr.
FB	Page Sessoms	6-0	225	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Marv Richardson	6-4	240	Sr.
T	Justen Moore	6-4	265	Sr.
T	Jeff Mauldin	6-3	255	Jr.
E	Fred Harley	6-2	260	Jr.
OLB	Willie Davis	5-11	215	Jr.
MLB	Deaubrey Devine	6-0	235	Sr.
OLB	Tito Rodriguez	6-2	235	So.
CB	Jeff Fye	5-8	160	Sr.
SS	Damian Damps	6-1	185	Jr.
FS	Tyrell Rice	6-0	180	Jr.
CB	Davin Bush	5-8	160	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Gabe Leavitt	6-0	175	Fr.
P	Javier Beorlegui	6-1	230	So.

Southwestern Louisiana

**NATIONAL
RANK**
111

Offensive strengths:

If the Cajuns can keep their backs healthy, they might have the makings of a productive running game. Juniors Elvis Joseph, Darren Brister

and John Bernard all have had big games at one time or another. None, however, has been very consistent. Wideouts Marcus Wilridge and Desmond Williams are sound targets, although neither can be considered close to departed standout Brandon Stokley.

Offensive weaknesses: There are five quarterbacks on the depth chart, and new coach Jerry Baldwin might use all of them this season.

Barton Folse, the only senior, likely will get the first chance; he needs to improve on last season, when he threw three touchdown passes and seven interceptions. Derek Dyer moves well, but throwing accuracy is a problem. Lance Domec is a stationary target. Each will work behind a thin offensive front that didn't look good in spring drills against the Cajuns' shaky defense.

Defensive strengths: When you rank 112th of 112 teams in total defense, there aren't many strengths.

Baldwin hopes for some success in the secondary, where the depth is good; he singles out corners Curnell Schumack and Charles Woods as strong performers. The coach also likes linebackers Victor Hart and Gerald Stewart.

Defensive weaknesses: The defensive line may be even shakier than the offensive front. Baldwin had better hope junior college transfers Christopher Gistorb and Darell Cottonham can contribute right away, or opponents may improve on last year's 220.6 rushing yards a game. That would be catastrophic.

Special teams: Chris Shaw punted so often last year (79) it's a wonder his leg didn't fall off. He'll be called upon for similar duty. Redshirt freshman Brent Bergeron gets first crack at the kicking job, and Shaw (4 for 7 on field-goal attempts last year) may get some opportunities, too. Bernard and Joseph are good return men.

Key to success: The Cajuns must improve their defense, plain and simple. The junior college transfers have to deliver along the front line, and the deep secondary needs to make big plays.

Outlook: Numbers are down, confidence is low and self-esteem is lagging. Welcome to Lafayette, coach Baldwin. Thank goodness he has an upbeat attitude. The hole is deep and the ladder is short right now. The Cajuns can hope for three wins this season and move from there.

*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Oklahoma St.
S11—Texas Tech
S18—at Houston
S25—Mid. Tenn. St.
O2—Louisiana Tech
O9—at Washington St.
O16—at Tulane
O23—NE Louisiana
O30—at Arkansas St.
N13—at So. Mississippi
N20—Wofford

Middle Tennessee State

**NATIONAL
RANK**
114

Offensive strengths:

New coach Andy McCollum likes sophomore quarterback Wes Counts' athletic ability and capacity for escaping trouble. The ground

attack features talented holdover Kerverrick Green, who had a 259-yard game against Tennessee-Martin last year, and highly touted Jamison Palmer, who scored 21 times last season in junior college. Sophomore Kendall Newson had 30 catches last year. Junior college transfer Nick Payne has great size (6-4) and speed.

Offensive weaknesses: As many as four junior college transfers could be starting on the line—not the best recipe for success.

The Blue Raiders need help up front to compete with the I-AA rivals on their schedule, and McCollum recruited a host of two-year quick fixes. Expect Brock Lillis to step in at center. Corey Crane and Gil Matias are candidates at guard and tackle. Among the holdovers, tackles Barry Hall and Chris Howington (up to 285 from 268) looked serviceable during the spring.

Defensive strengths: The Blue Raiders go to a 3-4 set this year,

and that means plenty of work for the linebackers. McCollum thinks he has a few winners in rush man Isaiah Brown and strongside Keith Pauldo, and look for fine play from Eugene Shaw and Kenta Sadler. McCollum calls free safety Mario Kelso "intuitive."

Defensive weaknesses: The defensive line also is being reinforced by junior college transfers, with Brant Walker and Terrance King leading the way. They at least will add bulk. The secondary allowed 224.9 passing yards a game last year and lost top cover man Cedric Stegall (14 career interceptions).

Special teams: Keegan Ray made 10 of 14 field-goal attempts last year but doesn't have the longest leg. The punting is shaky, no matter whether David Lill or Joey Burstyne handles the role. Payne and Newson will get a chance to return kicks and punts.

Key to success: Get strong and consistent play along both front lines, or even the I-AA foes will feast on the Raiders. An influx of two-year newcomers never provides a full solution.

Outlook: Middle Tennessee comes to I-AA after a 5-5 Ohio Valley Conference season. The schedule is a mix of big-payday visits to Mississippi State, Arizona and Arkansas, dates with the other great unwashed I-AA independents and a few from the I-AA fraternity. Three or four wins are possible.

*Returning starters in bold *Redshirt

SCHEDULE

S4—at Mississippi St.
S11—at Arizona
S18—Wofford
S25—at SW Louisiana
O2—Troy State
O9—at Arkansas
O16—at Louisiana Tech
O30—at NE Louisiana
N6—Tenn.-Martin
N13—Central Florida
N20—East Tennessee

CAJUNS DATA

Site: Lafayette
Coach: Jerry Baldwin (first year)
1998 record: 2-9
Field: Cajun Field (grass, 31,000)
Last postseason appearance: none

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Jeremy Joshua	6-0	195	Sr.
T	Mark Lamere	6-6	300	Sr.
G	Brandon Arable	6-3	285	Jr.
C	David Gaar	6-2	283	Jr.
G	Ryan Childers	6-3	265	Jr.
T	Ryan Cade	6-5	281	Jr.
TE	Richard Sandusky	6-4	250	Jr.
WR	Desmond Williams	6-4	210	Jr.
WR	Marcus Wilridge	6-0	193	So.
QB	Derek Dyer	6-1	205	So.
RB	Darren Brister	5-10	184	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Matt Merry	6-3	250	Sr.
T	Charles Brown	6-5	274	Jr.
T	Eugene Chambers	6-3	255	Sr.
E	Danny Scott	6-4	260	Sr.
OLB	Gerald Stewart	5-11	216	Sr.
MLB	Dwayne Viator	6-1	236	Sr.
OLB	Walter Sampson	6-4	238	Fr.
CB	Curnell Schumack	5-10	176	So.
SS	Matt Cieslak	6-0	204	So.
FS	Brian Deamer	6-1	190	So.
CB	Charles Woods	5-9	181	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	*Brent Bergeron	5-9	154	Fr.
P	Chris Shaw	6-3	221	Sr.

BLUE RAIDERS DATA

Site: Murfreesboro
Coach: Andy McCollum (first year)
1998 record: 5-5; Ohio Valley: 5-2 (2nd)
Field: Floyd (turf, 31,000)
Last postseason appearance: 1994 I-AA playoffs

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR	Kendall Newson	6-1	172	So.
T	*Chris Howington	6-3	285	Fr.
G	Tony Edge	6-2	287	Jr.
C	*Glen Elarbee	6-2	248	Fr.
G	*Kevin Pascoe	6-2	292	Fr.
T	Barry Hall	6-6	302	Jr.
TE	*Lucas Frost	6-3	219	Fr.
WR	*Tyrone Calico	6-4	196	Fr.
QB	Wes Counts	6-1	188	So.
RB	Kerverrick Green	5-9	194	Sr.
FB	*Jason Spray	5-10	217	Fr.

DEFENSE

E	Martez Phelps	6-2	276	Jr.
T	Carnell Houston	5-11	262	Sr.
E	Jeff Thomas	6-2	274	Sr.
OLB	Isaiah Brown	6-1	190	Jr.
ILB	Keith Pauldo	5-11	239	Jr.
ILB	Kenta Sadler	5-11	208	So.
OLB	Eugene Shaw	5-10	198	So.
CB	Geno Henderson	5-10	180	Sr.
SS	Delvin Pikes	5-11	165	Jr.
FS	Mario Kelso	5-11	175	Jr.
CB	Korey Conner	5-10	180	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Keegan Ray	6-1	220	Sr.
P	David Lill	6-0	180	Sr.

SCOUTING

Independents

The top players

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	James Jordan, Louisiana Tech	6-3	225	So.
WR	Charles Lee, Central Florida	6-2	205	Sr.
TE	Jabari Holloway, Notre Dame	6-4	258	Jr.
T	Jordan Black, Notre Dame	6-6	313	So.
T	John Teasdale, Notre Dame	6-6	306	Jr.
G	Mike Gandy, Notre Dame	6-4	288	Sr.
G	Kurt Vollers, Notre Dame	6-7	299	Jr.
C	Terrence Anderson, Navy	5-11	279	Sr.
QB	Tim Rattay, Louisiana Tech	6-1	200	Sr.
RB	Tony Driver, Notre Dame	6-1	214	Jr.
RB	Bobby Ray Tell, Louisiana Tech	5-6	200	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Anthony Weaver, Notre Dame	6-3	261	So.
T	Brad Williams, Notre Dame	6-4	288	Sr.
T	Jarrett Procell, Louisiana Tech	6-3	275	Sr.
E	Jonathan Foster, NE Louisiana	6-2	250	Sr.
LB	Ronnie Nicks, Notre Dame	6-0	238	Sr.
LB	Nate Jones, Northeast Louisiana	5-11	195	Sr.
LB	Deaubrey Devine, Central Florida	6-0	235	Sr.
CB	Deveron Harper, Notre Dame	5-11	187	Sr.
CB	Pat Dennis, Northeast Louisiana	6-0	200	Jr.
S	Deke Cooper, Notre Dame	6-2	219	Sr.
S	Jamie Doffermyre, Navy	6-1	188	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Jim Sanson, Notre Dame	5-9	187	Sr.
P	Tray Calisch, Navy	5-11	185	Sr.
KR	Mike Mitchell, NE Louisiana	5-8	180	Sr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Ellis Debrow, WR, C. Florida
Top defensive newcomer: Gerome Sapp, DB, N. Dame

Best offensive backfield: Notre Dame

Best wide receivers: Central Florida

Best offensive line: Notre Dame

Best defensive line: Notre Dame

Best linebackers: Notre Dame

Best secondary: Notre Dame

Best special teams: Navy

Hardest hitter: Jeff Fye, CB, Central Florida

Best backup QB: Arnaz Battle, Notre Dame

Best pro prospect: Tim Rattay, QB, Louisiana Tech

Best game-day atmosphere: Notre Dame

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Notre Dame: The Irish improved team speed considerably, addressed the kicking game with Nick Setta and Joey Hildbold, and gained immediate defensive help in the form of big-play back Gerome Sapp and run-stuffing tackle Cedric Hilliard. Running back Julius Jones and five offensive linemen hold big promise.

2. Central Florida: Ellis Debrow is the kind of big-play receiver who usually signs with Florida State or Florida. Junior college transfer Victor Penn, who began his career at South Carolina, could move right in at quarterback, and Brian Miller is the

The independent deck continues to be shuffled every season. Out this year are Alabama-Birmingham (to Conference USA) and Arkansas State, which moved back to the Big West. In is Middle Tennessee State, which is stepping up to I-AA from I-AA. This won't be the last movement. Troy State of the I-AA Southland Conference wants to move up, and there is talk of a conference that might include Louisiana Tech, Arkansas State, Southwestern Louisiana and others. The "others" need to be determined. Louisiana Tech will do all it can to keep rival Northeast Louisiana out of such a confederation. Central Florida might hold out for something better, particularly if the Big East appears ready to expand. Notre Dame and Navy aren't going anywhere. The Irish have declined an invitation to join the Big Ten, and Navy's administration prefers independent status.

Ascending: Fighting Irish fans can't believe it, but Notre Dame did have a talent deficit during the mid-1990s. Two good recruiting classes have improved the team's speed and athleticism. Although Notre Dame won nine games last year, it was a soft nine. At this time next year, a top-five finish could be the forecast. **Descending:** Central Florida may have a bright future, but the present isn't going to be pleasant. The loss of quarterback Daunte Culpepper, coupled with a brutal early schedule, will make a .500 record look good. That's quite a drop from last year's 9-2 success.

Best matchup: Notre Dame at Tennessee, November 6. OK, maybe the Notre Dame at Michigan game on September 4 could be better, but that is played so early that it may not have real impact on the national picture. The Irish and Vols played in 1990 and '91, with each winning on the other's field.

Biggest shoes to fill: Whether it's Kelvin Robinson, Victor Penn or Chris Ryan at quarterback for Central Florida, he will be in the huge shadow of Culpepper. Without Culpepper last year, Central Florida would have been battered by the big boys. With him, the Knights won nine games, played on national TV and came close to a bowl

future at the position.

3. Louisiana Tech: Jack Bicknell's first class for the Bulldogs is a good one. Linebacker Jonte' Price was a two-way high school terror who brings speed to the defense.

4. Northeast Louisiana: New coach Bobby Keasler wants a tougher, more physical team, so he loaded up with linemen, including star guard John Bellot.

5. Southwestern Louisiana: Jerry Baldwin's first recruiting class, headed by defensive back Leman Anderson, featured 28 players, including plenty of junior college help for the lines.

6. Middle Tennessee State: Junior college transfer Jamison Palmer rushed for 1,574 yards and scored 21 touchdowns last year.

(Navy doesn't release the names of its recruits)



Making strides: Not all Notre Dame fans have warmed to Davie, but he has the program headed in the right direction.

in just their third year at the I-A level.

Most underrated player: Take one look at Central Florida senior cornerback Jeff Fye and try to imagine him as one of the top hitters on the team. You probably can't. The 5-8, 160-pound Fye won the team's "Big Stick" four times last year. Einstein would love this guy, since he generates the most energy possible from his small mass.

Best coach: Notre Dame coach Bob Davie may not have won all the hearts of the Irish fans, but he has made strides toward returning Notre Dame to the ranks of the elite.

Best staff: Luring Kevin Rogers from Syracuse to administer Notre Dame's multiple offense was a great move by Davie. The Irish have two top-flight coordinators, Rogers and Greg Mattison. The problem is, once the Irish start producing big numbers, Rogers will get a head coaching position. Inside linebackers coach Kirk Doll is first-rate, and football operations coordinator Bob Chmiel is a pro.

Coach on the hot seat: With new coaches at four of the seven independents, this isn't an easy category to fill. But in college football, there always is one given: Whoever is coaching Notre Dame had better win—big. Davie is in little danger of being canned after just two years, but there are no jobs with as much pressure.

Odds and ends: Notre Dame decided to play host to Kansas in the Eddie Robinson Classic on August 28 to get some work in before a difficult road swing that takes the Irish to Michigan and Purdue on back-to-back Saturdays in early September. In another scheduling quirk, the Irish play five straight home games from September 18 to October 30 and finish with three of four games on the road. —Michael Bradley

TSN's Division I-AA top 25

1. Massachusetts
2. Montana
3. Georgia Southern
4. Southern
5. Hofstra
6. Northern Arizona
7. Appalachian State
8. Tennessee State
9. Eastern Kentucky
10. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
11. Troy State
12. Illinois State
13. East Tennessee State
14. Florida A&M
15. Northern Iowa
16. McNeese State
17. Richmond
18. Jackson State
19. Northwestern State
20. Connecticut
21. Hampton
22. Youngstown State
23. Eastern Illinois
24. Delaware
25. Stephen F. Austin

Expect Minutemen to make short work of opponents.
It's Miller Time in Missoula.
Hill and Peterson have best moves since The Dirty Bird.
Jaguars favored for third straight Southwestern title.
Dutchmen flying high with Carmazzi and Sanders leading attack.
From mediocre to Top 10; transfer Ronney Jenkins is big-time star.
Mountaineers open season at Auburn.
With Murray at QB, Tigers are class of Ohio Valley.
Crume and Logan are dynamic duo in backfield.
Williams is one of best receivers in I-AA.
Men of Troy poised for seventh playoff appearance in eight seasons.
Glenn-to-Garrett will be familiar refrain this season.
Walker and Wells are big-time performers.
Coach Billy Joe knows Rattlers' strength is their receiving duo.
The more Helming connects with Furrey, the better Panthers will be.
Defense, defense, defense—it's one of best in country.
Spiders' defense is sure to spin web of destruction.
Skill position players lead this talented bunch.
Demons' offense a load for any defense.
New coach Edsall will have Huskies running Like a Ferrari.
Pirates' roster again stacked, led by QB Johnson.
DB Smiley brings anything but happiness to quarterbacks.
Three stars on offense for Panthers.
QB Nagy and Blue Hens will peck away at defenses.
Coleman and Stoker lead strong running attack.

TSN's preseason I-AA All-America teams

OFFENSE

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Player, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
WR	Sylvester Morris, Jackson State	6-3	203	Sr.
WR	Chip Hobbs, Montana State	6-3	214	Sr.
TE	Mike Leach, William & Mary	6-4	238	Sr.
T	John Ciampi, Hofstra	6-4	310	Jr.
T	Terrance Beadles, Arkansas-Pine Bluff	6-4	291	Sr.
G	Jon Osterhout, Sacramento State	6-4	295	Sr.
G	Josh Hunter, Eastern Kentucky	6-2	280	Sr.
C	Brad Meester, Northern Iowa	6-4	287	Sr.
QB	Giovanni Carmazzi, Hofstra	6-3	220	Sr.
RB	Marcel Shipp, Massachusetts	6-0	195	Jr.
RB	Ronney Jenkins, Northern Arizona	5-10	185	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Player, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
WR	Jacquay Nunnally, Florida A&M	5-11	185	Jr.
WR	Lamar Cooper, E. Tennessee State	5-9	185	Sr.
TE	Brad St. Louis, SW Missouri State	6-4	242	Sr.
T	Albert Traylor, Northwestern State	6-2	308	Jr.
T	Bennie Anderson, Tennessee State	6-5	305	Sr.
G	Rick Judd, Weber State	6-2	295	Jr.
G	Wes Hines, McNeese State	6-3	320	Jr.
C	Ian Shirey, Youngstown State	6-3	265	Sr.
QB	Leon Murray, Tennessee State	6-3	205	Sr.
RB	Brian Westbrook, Villanova	5-8	185	Jr.
RB	Charles Dunn, Portland State	5-9	180	So.
K	Lawrence Tynes, Troy State	6-1	170	Jr.

DEFENSE

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Player, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
E	Lamar Carter, Tennessee State	6-3	215	Sr.
T	Al Lucas, Troy State	6-2	280	Sr.
E	Shannon Jackson, Indiana State	6-2	270	Sr.
LB	Marcus Wilson, Montana	6-1	230	Sr.
LB	Fred Bishop, Samford	5-11	235	Sr.
LB	Paris Lenon, Richmond	6-2	220	Sr.
LB	Deon Hunt, Hampton	6-1	220	Sr.
FS	Anthony Harris, South Florida	6-0	175	Sr.
SS	Torrey Rush, Liberty	5-11	198	Sr.
CB	Eric Sloan, Troy State	5-9	185	Sr.
CB	DeJuan Alfonzo, Indiana State	5-11	190	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Player, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
E	Justin Yowell, Jacksonville	6-3	261	So.
T	Voncellies Allen, Georgia Southern	6-0	286	Sr.
E	David Ferrara, Princeton	6-3	255	Sr.
LB	Kawonza Swan, Youngstown State	6-3	225	Sr.
LB	Afa Faraimo, Northern Arizona	5-10	215	Sr.
LB	Matt Pedersen, Northern Iowa	6-3	220	Sr.
LB	James Emanuel, Hofstra	6-1	230	Sr.
FS	Eric Johnson, Western Carolina	6-2	206	Sr.
S	Jeff DeLucia, Connecticut	5-10	185	Sr.
CB	Omar Evans, Howard	6-0	185	Sr.
CB	Steffan Nicholson, Eastern Illinois	6-0	182	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Player, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
K	Travis Brawner, Southwest Missouri St.	6-0	186	Sr.
P	Matt Bushart, Southern	6-4	258	Sr.
KR	Carlos Frank, The Citadel	5-9	170	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Player, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
K	Pete Garces, Idaho State	6-3	200	Sr.
P	Wayne Schlobohm, Dartmouth	6-2	220	Sr.
KR	Joey Jamison, Texas Southern	5-9	160	Sr.

Top transfers from I-A schools

Player	Pos.	Old school	New school
Kevin Carty	QB	North Carolina	William & Mary
DeJuan Gilmore	RB	Washington St.	Cal State-Northridge
Ronney Jenkins	RB	Brigham Young	Northern Arizona
Ken Mastrole	QB	Maryland	Rhode Island
Jay Rodgers	QB	Indiana	Southwest Missouri St.
Chris Sanders	QB	S. Methodist	Tenn.-Chattanooga
Mike Usury	QB	Georgia	South Florida

Atlantic 10

BY JOHN O'CONNOR, RICHMOND (VA.) TIMES-DISPATCH

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Dave Klemic, Northeastern	6-0	171	Jr.
WR	Earnest Payton, James Madison	6-1	190	Jr.
TE	Mike Leach, William & Mary	6-4	238	Sr.
T	Ryan Ward, New Hampshire	6-6	315	Jr.
T	Eric Beatty, Richmond	6-4	290	Jr.
G	Ryan Knight, Villanova	6-1	275	Sr.
G	Corey Derfuss, Connecticut	6-3	266	Jr.
C	Jeff Hayes, New Hampshire	6-3	282	Sr.
QB	Todd Bankhead, Massachusetts	6-3	205	Sr.
RB	Marcel Shipp, Massachusetts	6-0	195	Jr.
RB	Brian Westbrook, Villanova	5-8	185	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Mike Cecere, Delaware	6-3	250	Jr.
T	Raheem Walker, William & Mary	6-2	276	Sr.
E	Jojo Oliphant, Maine	6-3	245	Sr.
LB	Paris Lenon, Richmond	6-1	210	Sr.
LB	Zach Falconer, Northeastern	6-1	213	Jr.
LB	Kole Ayi, Massachusetts	6-0	217	Jr.
LB	Brian McKenna, Delaware	6-2	218	Jr.
CB	Chris Anderson, Richmond	5-7	165	Sr.
CB	Jordan Younger, Connecticut	5-10	189	Sr.
S	Aaron Dashiell, Maine	5-11	175	Sr.
S	Jeff DeLucia, Connecticut	5-10	185	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Casey Hannon, Villanova	6-0	185	So.
P	Mike Leach, William & Mary	6-4	238	Sr.
KR	Brian Westbrook, Villanova	5-8	185	Jr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Ken Mastrole, QB, R. Island
Top defensive newcomer: Khari Reynolds, CB, W&M
Best offensive backfield: Massachusetts
Best wide receivers: William & Mary
Best offensive line: New Hampshire
Best defensive line: Maine
Best linebackers: Massachusetts
Best secondary: Richmond
Best special teams: Villanova
Hardest hitter: Paris Lenon, LB, Richmond
Best backup QB: Brian Ginn, Delaware
Best pro prospect: Paris Lenon, LB, Richmond
Best game-day atmosphere: Delaware

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: **Brian Westbrook, RB, Villanova**
 Defense: **Kole Ayi, LB, Massachusetts**

ATLANTIC 10

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

1 MASSACHUSETTS

Nickname: Minutemen. **Site:** Amherst
Coach: Mark Whipple (12-3, 1 year; 84-36 overall, 11 years)
1998 record: 12-3 (beat Georgia Southern in I-AA championship game); New England Division: 6-2 (tie 1st)
Top Players: LB Kole Ayi, 6-0, 217, jr.; QB Todd Bankhead, 6-3, 205, sr.; LB Matt Dawson, 6-0, 210, sr.; WR Jimmy Moore, 5-11, 180, sr.; DE Chris Price, 6-3, 226, sr.; RB Marcel Shipp, 6-0, 195, jr.; SS Brian Smith, 6-1, 195, jr.; CB Jerard White, 6-1, 208, sr.; OG Mike Wynne, 6-2, 285, sr.; WR Adrian Zullo, 5-7, 151, so.
Strengths: Massachusetts can torture defenses with Shipp, who averaged 181.6 rushing yards in '98, or Bankhead, who set five school records in his first season of I-AA competition. Whipple is regarded as one of the college game's finest play-callers, and Ayi is one of the A-10's premier playmakers. After capturing the I-AA title in '98, the Minutemen operate with confidence and momentum in Whipple's second year.
Weaknesses: The Minutemen will be without LB Khari Samuel, one of the A-10's top hitters for the past few seasons and the second-leading tackler in school history. They need to identify big-play receiving threats to compensate for the loss of Jimmy Moore, who caught 16 TD passes last year, and all-conference tight end Kerry Taylor.
Outlook: The Minutemen are going to score with high-quality personnel and Whipple's Whiplash Offense, but another remarkable season is unlikely unless UMass can improve a defense that allowed an average of 407.1 yards and 28.2 points last year. Some of the toughest games—Villanova, Toledo, Delaware, Richmond and William & Mary—will be played on the road.
Last playoff appearance: 1998

2 CONNECTICUT

Nickname: Huskies. **Site:** Storrs
Coach: Randy Edsall (1st year)
1998 record: 10-3 (lost to Georgia Southern in 1-AA quarterfinals); New England Division: 6-2 (tie 1st)
Top Players: DB Anthony Carter, 6-0, 199, sr.; TB Barry Chandler, 6-0, 215, jr.; DL Chad Cook, 6-1, 274, sr.; DB Jeff DeLucia, 5-10, 193, sr.; WR John Fitzsimmons, 6-2, 195, jr.; DL Ron Gamble, 6-2, 262, sr.; OL Jamie Harper, 6-3, 293, sr.; QB Brian Hoffmann, 6-2, 206, jr.; TB Reolon Jumph, 5-7, 205, jr.; DB Jordan Younger, 5-10, 188, sr.
Strengths: From the squad that led the A-10 in scoring (35.4 points a game), UConn returns Chandler and Jumph, who combined for 1,394 rushing yards and 15 TDs. They figure to get the ball more often, running behind a veteran set of blockers. The Huskies know they can play with the best, having beaten national champion UMass twice last year.
Weaknesses: UConn allowed averages of 468.2 yards (last in the A-10) and 29.7 points (next to last) in '98,

and opponents converted 40.7 percent of their third-down opportunities. Edsall, formerly Georgia Tech's defensive coordinator, hopes to implant a more aggressive defensive approach. Standout QB Shane Stafford and top receiver Carl Bond are gone.
Outlook: The Huskies were a wide-open outfit under Skip Holtz, who joined the staff of his father, Lou, at South Carolina after rejuvenating the UConn program. Expect a more determined defensive effort under Edsall, who also wants a more balanced offense. UConn, which is positioning itself to join the I-AA football ranks, plays two I-AA opponents—Kentucky and Buffalo—in back-to-back weeks early in the season.
Last playoff appearance: 1998

3 MAINE

Nickname: Black Bears. **Site:** Orono
Coach: Jack Cosgrove (24-42, 6 years)
1998 record: 6-5; New England Division: 3-5 (tie 3rd)
Top Players: RB Ben Christopher, 5-9, 188, jr.; FS Aaron Dashiell, 5-11, 175, sr.; RB Royston English, 6-1, 215, so.; CB/LB Mike Harvey, 5-9, 170, sr.; LB Pete LeBlanc, 6-1, 200, sr.; DL Ves Lugo, 6-4, 265, sr.; WR Phil McGeoghan, 6-3, 195, jr.; LB/FB Brent Naccara, 6-4, 245, sr.; DE Jojo Oliphant, 6-3, 245, sr.; WR Dwayne Wilmot, 6-0, 200, jr.
Strengths: Dashiell finds the ball. Last season he led the Black Bears in tackles (100), made six interceptions, and recovered a pair of fumbles on the way to all-conference recognition. Oliphant made 9½ sacks, and Royston English showed he's a bright light for the future by gaining 180 yards and scoring three TDs in Maine's upset of Delaware.
Weaknesses: Maine's potent pitch-catch combination of Mickey Fein and Drew O'Connor has departed. Fein ranks sixth all-time in A-10 passing yardage. O'Connor was the league's fourth-leading receiver in '98. Those two were primary reasons the Black Bears could keep up in the high-scoring A-10. While breaking in a new quarterback, Cosgrove will try to improve a rushing attack that ranked 10th in the league (132.6 yards a game).
Outlook: The defense, behind Dashiell and Oliphant, will need to maintain order until the Bears offense finds a new identity and a few more dependable ball-handlers. In the second season of Morse Field at Alford Stadium, Maine will play host to 1998 I-AA playoff participants Connecticut, Massachusetts and Richmond.
Last playoff appearance: 1989

4 NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Durham
Coach: Sean McDonnell (1st year)
1998 record: 4-7; New England Division: 3-5 (tie 3rd)
Top Players: TB Dan Curran, 6-0, 211, sr.; QB Ryan Day, 6-1, 208, so.; FB Dan Kreider, 6-0, 245, sr.; LB Rudy Marciano, 6-1, 220, jr.; LB Jon Oosterhuis, 6-4, 239, so.; SS Wade Rowcliffe, 6-0, 201, sr.; DB Mike Szveda, 6-1, 196, sr.; OL Ryan Ward, 6-7, 297, jr.; WR Jermaine Washington, 5-10, 171, sr.; OL Al Willis, 6-5, 298, jr.
Strengths: A veteran offensive line, led by the massive Ward, should continue the Wildcats' habit of moving the ball most efficiently on the ground. Washington made

An ill-fated dunk helped make Brian Westbrook the only player in NCAA history to achieve 1,000 rushing yards and 1,000 receiving yards in one season.

Westbrook was a highly recruited basketball and football player entering his senior year at DeMatha High in suburban Washington. He entered a dunking contest that was part of an all-star game's events in Wheaton, Md. "I went up and felt something pull, and when I came down I couldn't walk," Westbrook says. He suffered a torn hip flexor muscle and

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Brian Westbrook, Villanova



missed about half his senior football season. The Division I-A programs recruiting him backed off. Villanova signed the 5-9, 190-pound Westbrook to a football grant, and he blossomed last season as a sophomore. He set a school record with 1,046 rushing yards, caught 89 passes for 1,144 yards, returned 25 kickoffs for 644 yards and returned 15 punts for 192 yards. He scored 26 touchdowns, two off the I-AA record, and established a I-AA record for all-purpose yardage in a season (3,026). "Hopefully I won't have to do as much [in 1999]. I think the team will be better off if we can spread it around a little more," Westbrook says. —John O'Connor

only 28 catches last season, but twice surpassed the 100-yard mark; he is New Hampshire's big-play threat. Three starters return in the secondary, led by Rowcliffe. **Weaknesses:** The Wildcats can't replace tailback Jerry Azumah, a two-time offensive player of the year in the A-10. He is I-AA's leading career rusher (6,193 yards). New Hampshire also needs to replace quarterback Tim Cramsey. Offense could be a problem for a team that's relied so heavily on Azumah for the past four seasons. **Outlook:** McDonnell, who has been the team's offensive coordinator for the past four years, is replacing Bill Bowes, who retired after 27 years as New Hampshire's coach. Bowes' teams won 62 percent of their games. Look for Curran to be the offensive focal point on a team that will depend on ball control. In facilities and recruiting base, New Hampshire lags behind in the A-10. The discrepancies may show this year. **Last playoff appearance:** 1994

5 RHODE ISLAND

Nickname: Rams. **Site:** Kingston
Coach: Floyd Keith (21-44, 6 years; 44-61-2 overall, 10 years)
1998 record: 3-8; New England Division: 2-6 (5th)
Top Players: WR Karim Gibson, 6-2, 200, sr.; QB Ken Mastrole, 6-3, 225, sr. (transfer, Maryland); OL Rob Milani, 6-4, 318, sr.; LB Paul Piciotti, 6-2, 230, so. **Strengths:** Mastrole, who played in all 11 of Maryland's games last season, is eligible immediately and will be the Rams quarterback. Keith prefers to pass, and Mastrole gives the Rams a strong arm to go with three veteran receivers: Gibson, Shane Jacobs and Damon Ray. **Weaknesses:** Rhode Island had the A-10's third-best defense in '98, but several starters are gone. The Rams averaged a league-low 19.9 points last season and turned the ball over 28 times. There are questions about Keith's future. **Outlook:** Mastrole must have a monster season for the Rams to make waves in the A-10. The defense that was so tough against the rush in '98 is young. Rhode Island's best chance for success seems to be a wide-open setup that features its latest I-A transfer. **Last playoff appearance:** 1985

MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION

1 RICHMOND

Nickname: Spiders. **Site:** Richmond, Va.
Coach: Jim Reid (24-20-1, 4 years; 60-49-3 overall, 10 years)
1998 record: 9-3 (lost to Lehigh in first round I-AA playoffs); Mid-Atlantic Division: 7-1 (1st)
Top Players: DB Chris Anderson, 5-8, 170, sr.; OL Eric Beatty, 6-4, 295, jr.; LB Mac Janney, 6-2, 230, jr.; WR Dwayne Jones, 6-0, 185, sr.; LB Paris Lenon, 6-2, 220, sr.; DE Kevin Maggs, 6-5, 255, jr.; QB Jimmie Miles, 6-0, 200, sr.; WR Muneer Moore, 6-2, 200, sr.; LB Ronald Samuel Jr., 6-3, 220, so.; RB Tyrone Turner, 5-8, 170, jr. **Strengths:** Miles last season developed into the passing/rushing threat that Reid hoped he'd become. Miles' creativity gives defenses fits. Lenon will get a look from NFL scouts because of his quickness and toughness. Running the ball and stopping the run have been Richmond's calling cards under Reid, and that trend figures to hold, with slashing Turner moving into a more prominent role. **Weaknesses:** The Spiders need to rebuild both lines. Most pressing is the need for a dominant defensive lineman to fill the leadership role held by departed Marc Megna, the A-10's top defensive player in '98. Richmond's inconsistent kicking component hurts in the low-scoring games it usually plays. The Spiders haven't received the transfer help from junior colleges or I-A programs that has benefitted many other A-10 schools. **Outlook:** The Spiders' old-school style, an anomaly in the pass-happy A-10, presents a major headache for all opponents. Under Reid, Richmond consistently has

played some of the best defense in the A-10. Most of the top players from a league championship team are back. Miles, as he did last season, represents the key. If Richmond can score three TDs a game, it should be in great shape. **Last playoff appearance:** 1998

2 DELAWARE

Nickname: Blue Hens. **Site:** Newark
Coach: Tubby Raymond (277-107-3, 33 years)
1998 record: 7-4; Mid-Atlantic Division: 4-4 (tie 2nd)
Top Players: CB Tyrone Bowden, 5-10, 178, jr.; DE Mike Cecere, 6-3, 262, jr.; HB Craig Cummings, 5-9, 175, jr.; HB Derrick Downs, 5-11, 195, jr.; WR Jamin Elliott, 6-0, 180, so.; C Jeff Fiss, 6-2, 280, jr.; LB Brian McKenna, 6-2, 220, jr.; LB Dan Mulhen, 6-3, 210, fr.; QB Matt Nagy, 6-1, 205, jr.; TE Jason Bankerhoven, 6-7, 255, sr. **Strengths:** Nagy's efficiency rating of 157.03 ranked second in I-AA last season. As usual in Raymond's offense, deception and surprise will play major roles. McKenna is back to lead a defense that should be over the growing pains of youth. The Blue Hens know how to win, having endured just one losing record in league play in the last 13 years. **Weaknesses:** There was no more exciting A-10 player in '98 than 5-9 receiver Eddie Conti, who's gone. The Hens recruited junior college help in hopes of strengthening a loose secondary. Delaware surrendered 40 TDs in 11 games, an uncharacteristically high yield for a program known for solid defense. **Outlook:** Picking the Blue Hens to finish in the top half of the A-10 always is a safe bet. In the '90s, Delaware has posted a league record of 56-16. The Hens are 81-29-1 with six I-AA playoff appearances in this decade. With Raymond and his veteran staff, count on a title push. **Last playoff appearance:** 1997

3 WILLIAM & MARY

Nickname: Tribe. **Site:** Williamsburg, Va.
Coach: Jimmy Laycock (129-85-2, 19 years)
1998 record: 7-4; Mid-Atlantic Division: 4-4 (tie 2nd)
Top Players: TB Hameen Ali, 5-9, 185, jr.; CB Mike Beverly, 6-0, 175, sr.; QB Kevin Carty, 6-3, 215, jr. (transfer, North Carolina); FS Jimmy Cerminard, 6-1, 185, jr.; WR Dave Conklin, 5-10, 175, sr.; LB Todd Greineder, 6-2, 230, jr.; TE Mike Leach, 6-4, 238, sr.; LT Matt Mazersky, 6-4, 275, jr.; C Chris Morris, 6-3, 285, sr.; WR Chris Rosier, 6-2, 205, jr.; DT Raheem Walker, 6-2, 275, sr. **Strengths:** With Leach, who transferred from Boston University when the Terriers dropped football two years ago, Conklin and Rosier, the Tribe has the league's most formidable pass-catching trio. They combined for 169 receptions, 22 TDs and 2,304 yards last season. Carty, the new quarterback, has the arm to take advantage of his many targets. Ali emerged as one of the A-10's best runners in '98, and Walker distinguished himself as an all-conference performer without much defensive assistance. Laycock can find soft spots in a defense as well as any coach in the A-10. **Weaknesses:** Poor defense last season hurt a team that averaged 31.5 points. William & Mary badly needs to upgrade its speed on defense. Opponents complete 55 percent of their passes last season and averaged 28.6 points a game. Gone is Mike Cook, the A-10's second-leading passer in '98 and a team leader for three years. **Outlook:** If Carty can smoothly replace Cook, the Tribe will be one of the A-10's top scoring teams—Ali and the receivers will see to that. But to contend for a title, the Tribe requires more playmakers on the defensive side to help Walker. **Last playoff appearance:** 1996

4 VILLANOVA

Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Villanova, Pa.
1998 record: 6-5; Mid-Atlantic Division: 4-4 (tie 2nd)
Top Players: RB Ducarmel Augustin, 6-0, 220, jr.; OL Stan Bennett, 6-5, 295, jr.; QB Chris Boden, 6-2, 215, sr.;

ATLANTIC 10 SCHEDULES

CONNECTICUT	NORTHEASTERN
Sept. 4 at Hofstra	Sept. 4 American International
Sept. 11 at Kentucky	Sept. 11 at James Madison
Sept. 18 Buffalo	Sept. 25 William & Mary
Sept. 25 at Maine	Oct. 2 at Boston College
Oct. 2 Rhode Island	Oct. 9 at Massachusetts
Oct. 16 Villanova	Oct. 16 New Hampshire
Oct. 23 at James Madison	Oct. 23 at Villanova
Oct. 30 Richmond	Oct. 30 Delaware
Nov. 6 Northeastern	Nov. 6 at Connecticut
Nov. 13 New Hampshire	Nov. 13 Maine
Nov. 20 at Massachusetts	Nov. 20 at Rhode Island
DELAWARE	RHODE ISLAND
Sept. 2 William & Mary	Sept. 4 New Hampshire
Sept. 11 at Citadel	Sept. 18 Hofstra
Sept. 18 West Chester	Sept. 25 Morgan State
Sept. 25 at James Madison	Oct. 2 at Connecticut
Oct. 2 Richmond	Oct. 9 at Richmond
Oct. 16 Lehigh	Oct. 16 at Brown
Oct. 23 Massachusetts	Oct. 23 Maine
Oct. 30 at Northeastern	Oct. 30 at Massachusetts
Nov. 6 at New Hampshire	Nov. 6 William & Mary
Nov. 13 Rhode Island	Nov. 13 at Delaware
Nov. 20 at Villanova	Nov. 20 Northeastern
JAMES MADISON	RICHMOND
Sept. 4 at Virginia Tech	Sept. 4 Virginia Military
Sept. 11 Northeastern	Sept. 11 Villanova
Sept. 18 at New Hampshire	Sept. 18 at Maine
Sept. 25 Delaware	Sept. 25 New Hampshire
Oct. 2 at Villanova	Oct. 2 at Delaware
Oct. 16 at William & Mary	Oct. 9 Rhode Island
Oct. 23 Connecticut	Oct. 30 at Connecticut
Oct. 30 South Florida	Nov. 6 Massachusetts
Nov. 6 at Maine	Nov. 13 at James Madison
Nov. 13 Richmond	Nov. 20 William & Mary
Nov. 20 at Hofstra	VILLANOVA
MAINE	Sept. 4 at Air Force
Sept. 4 at Colgate	Sept. 11 at Richmond
Sept. 18 Richmond	Sept. 18 Massachusetts
Sept. 25 Connecticut	Sept. 25 at Pennsylvania
Oct. 9 Hofstra	Oct. 2 James Madison
Oct. 16 Massachusetts	Oct. 9 at William & Mary
Oct. 23 at Rhode Island	Oct. 16 at Connecticut
Oct. 30 at William & Mary	Oct. 23 Northeastern
Nov. 6 James Madison	Oct. 30 at New Hampshire
Nov. 13 at Northeastern	Nov. 13 Youngstown State
Nov. 20 at New Hampshire	Nov. 20 Delaware
MASSACHUSETTS	WILLIAM & MARY
Sept. 11 New Hampshire	Sept. 2 at Delaware
Sept. 18 at Villanova	Sept. 11 at North Carolina St.
Sept. 25 at Toledo	Sept. 18 Furman
Oct. 2 Hofstra	Sept. 25 at Northeastern
Oct. 9 Northeastern	Oct. 9 Villanova
Oct. 16 at Maine	Oct. 16 James Madison
Oct. 23 at Delaware	Oct. 23 at Virginia Military
Oct. 30 Rhode Island	Oct. 30 Maine
Nov. 6 at Richmond	Nov. 6 at Rhode Island
Nov. 13 at William & Mary	Nov. 13 Massachusetts
Nov. 20 Connecticut	Nov. 20 at Richmond
NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Sept. 4 at Rhode Island	
Sept. 11 at Massachusetts	
Sept. 18 James Madison	
Sept. 25 at Richmond	
Oct. 2 Stephen F. Austin	
Oct. 16 at Northeastern	
Oct. 23 at Southern Florida	
Oct. 30 Villanova	
Nov. 6 Delaware	
Nov. 13 at Connecticut	
Nov. 20 Maine	

Big Sky

BY JIM MEEHAN, SPOKANE (WASH.) SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Chip Hobbs, Montana State	6-3	214	Sr.
WR	Jeremy Watkins, Montana	5-10	175	Sr.
TE	Chris Kelly, Sacramento State	6-4	225	Sr.
T	Kamakana Kaimulua, Montana	6-4	285	Jr.
T	Lance Knaevelsrud, E. Washington	6-4	271	Sr.
G	Rick Judd, Weber State	6-2	285	Jr.
G	Jon Osterhout, Sacramento State	6-4	295	Sr.
C	Brent Ludwig, Montana State	6-5	296	Sr.
QB	Marcus Brady, Cal State-Northridge	6-1	185	So.
RB	Charles Dunn, Portland State	5-9	180	So.
RB	Charles Roberts, Sacramento State	5-6	175	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Derek Allen, Northern Arizona	6-6	290	Sr.
E	Brennen Swanson, Cal St.-Northridge	6-3	230	Jr.
T	Tyler Martin, Montana	6-1	295	Jr.
T	Dario Romero, Eastern Washington	6-3	272	Sr.
LB	Marcus Wilson, Montana	6-1	230	Sr.
LB	Afa Faraimo, Northern Arizona	5-10	215	Sr.
LB	Greg Belzer, Eastern Washington	6-1	233	Jr.
CB	Damon Parker, Montana	5-7	175	Jr.
CB	Mel Miller, Cal State-Northridge	5-11	195	Sr.
S	Julian Williams, Eastern Washington	6-0	196	Sr.
S	Shon Flores, Montana State	6-0	213	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Pete Garcés, Idaho State	6-3	200	Sr.
P	Ethan Beck, Cal State-Northridge	6-4	200	Jr.
KR	Michael Rigell, Montana	5-11	185	So.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Drew Miller, QB, Montana
Top defensive newcomer: Jason Mageo, DE, Northridge
Best offensive backfield: Portland State
Best wide receivers: Montana
Best offensive line: Eastern Washington
Best defensive line: Montana
Best linebackers: Northern Arizona
Best secondary: Montana State
Best special teams: Montana
Hardest hitter: Jacob Yoro, LB, Montana
Best backup QB: Ricky Ray, Sacramento State
Best pro prospect: Ronney Jenkins, RB, No. Arizona
Best game-day atmosphere: Montana

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Marcus Brady, QB, Cal State-Northridge
Defense: Marcus Wilson, LB, Montana

RB Roger Harriott, 5-8, 175, sr.; DB DeLonne Kelly, 5-9, 185, sr.; OL Ryan Knight, 6-1, 290, sr.; DB Hezekiah Lewis, 5-9, 175, sr.; LB Shaun Lyons, 6-1, 230, sr.; WR Steve Ward, 6-4, 200, jr.; RB Brian Westbrook, 5-9, 195, jr.

Strengths: Westbrook, quick and powerful, last season became the first player in NCAA history to gain 1,000 or more yards as both a rusher and a receiver. Additionally, Westbrook may be the A-10's best return man. Also back is Boden, a Californian who has thrown 75 touchdown passes. Lyons led 'Nova in tackles with 104 last season, and Lewis provides solid run support to go along with high-quality coverage.

Weaknesses: Villanova's opponents averaged 31 points last year, most in the A-10. The Wildcats bent and broke too often; opponents completed 58.7 percent of their passes. Averaging 32.5 points wasn't enough for Villanova to cover the defensive problems. The offense must find other alternatives to the versatile Westbrook, who clearly will be a marked man.

Outlook: Villanova should be better, but a brutal early-season schedule may be telling. The Wildcats open with four champions: WAC champion Air Force, Atlantic 10 champ Richmond, I-AA champ Massachusetts and Ivy League champ Pennsylvania. That's a tough way to start for a defense seeking confidence. Still, with Westbrook and Boden, Villanova should be regarded as a threat in the A-10.

Last playoff appearance: 1997

5 NORTHEASTERN

Nickname: Huskies. **Site:** Boston

Coach: Barry Gallup (36-51-1, 8 years)

1998 record: 5-6. Mid-Atlantic Division: 3-5 (5th)

Top Players: WR Andy Alsop, 5-10, 170, so.; LB Zach Falconer, 6-1, 230, sr.; C Chris Gates, 6-3, 275, jr.; LB Brian Hayden, 6-1, 235, sr.; WR Dave Klemic, 6-0, 171, jr.; RB L.J. McKanas, 6-1, 195, so.; CB Tony Morales, 5-8, 179, sr.; DT Doug Tillberg, 6-2, 260, jr.; QB Fred Vallett, 5-11, 185, jr.; FS Brian Whitman, 5-11, 185, jr.

Strengths: Vallett began preseason practice last year third on the Northeastern depth chart and ended the year among the A-10's top five in nearly every passing category. He's dangerous as a runner too. Klemic has made 94 catches for 1,807 yards in his two seasons for the Huskies. Northeastern traditionally has one of the A-10's most physical defenses, and the return of several quality starters should sustain that reputation. **Weaknesses:** The Huskies last season converted only 32.2 percent of their third-down chances, last in the league, and averaged only 22.9 points, ninth in the conference. Northeastern, which managed only seven rushing TDs last year, could use a dependable runner to take some heat off Vallett.

Outlook: To climb into the top half of the A-10, Northeastern must win a few of the close games it dropped last season. Four of its six defeats came by a TD or less. The Huskies need more scoring to complement a defense that's especially tough at Parsons Field, Northeastern's cozy home field. A big year from Vallett and Klemic will help the Huskies, but more offensive threats are needed.

Last playoff appearance: none

6 JAMES MADISON

Nickname: Dukes. **Site:** Harrisonburg, Va.

Coach: Mickey Matthews (1st year)

1998 record: 3-8; Mid-Atlantic Division: 2-6 (6th)

Top Players: LB Zeb Clark, 6-0, 200, jr.; WR Lindsay Flesherman, 6-1, 195, jr.; OT Jason Inskeep, 6-3, 275, jr.; TB/KR Delvin Joyce, 5-7, 185, jr.; TB Curtis Keaton, 5-11, 210, sr.; DE Chris Morant, 6-0, 230, jr.; LB Jason Parmer, 6-2, 230, sr.; WR Earnest Payton, 6-1, 190, jr.; DT Jon Petrunak, 6-3, 235, jr.; G Dee Shropshire, 5-11, 285, sr. **Strengths:** Keaton, a transfer from West Virginia, was provided only minimal blocking last season, but still gained 1,159 yards. He's one of the top tailbacks in the league and may have an NFL future. Payton set a school record with 82 receptions in '98 and can become the school's all-time receptions leader with 37 catches this season. Joyce, who arrived two years ago as a walk-on, averaged 158.3 all-purpose yards last season.

Weaknesses: Matthews, a former Georgia assistant, takes over a program that has been missing good line-men on both sides of the ball for a few years. The Dukes have had all sorts of trouble running the ball and stopping the rush. Quarterback Greg Maddox, a three-year regular, chose not to return for his final season of eligibility. Tony Booth, an All-America safety two years ago and a defensive leader for two seasons, also is gone.

Outlook: Matthews wants to install a quick passing attack similar to the one Kentucky operates, but there are many weak spots on his first Madison team. Several junior college transfers were added, but it likely will take a couple of years before the Dukes can make any noise in the conference.

Last playoff appearance: 1995

BIG SKY

1 MONTANA

Nickname: Grizzlies. **Site:** Missoula

Coach: Mick Denney (30-9, 3 years; 40-22 overall, 6 years)

1998 record: 8-4; Big Sky: 6-2 (1st)

Top Players: LB Adam Boomer, 6-2, 220, jr.; CB Chris Colvin, 5-10, 180, jr.; K Kris Heppner, 6-0, 177, sr.; OT Kamakana Kaimulua, 6-4, 285, jr.; DT Tyler Martin, 6-1, 295, jr.; FS Jason Miller, 6-2, 191, jr.; TE/P Dallas Neil, 6-4, 230, sr.; WR/PR Travis Walker, 6-1, 195, sr.; WR Jeremy Watkins, 5-10, 175, sr.; LB Marcus Wilson, 6-1, 230, sr.

Strengths: The rich got richer—quarterback Drew Miller and receiver Michael Rigell transferred to Montana from Brigham Young during the offseason. They were high school teammates in Tacoma, Wash., and will add pizzazz to the offense. Rigell adds to an already outstanding receiving corps, so points

Marcus Brady has been playing quarterback for nearly as long as he has played football, which makes it difficult to understand why schools viewed him as a receiver or defensive back. "It did get kind of frustrating," says Brady, the Cal State-Northridge quarterback who was the Big Sky Conference's Top Newcomer in 1998. "I told them up front I was a quarterback and I had no interest in switching positions. They were like, 'Well, you could come in as a defensive back.'"

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Marcus Brady, Cal State-Northridge



CAL STATE-NORTHIDGE

Brady held his ground, even though it probably cost him some opportunities. The Matadors are thankful for Brady's bullheadedness—and his right arm. As a redshirt freshman last season, he completed 256 of 377 attempts—67.9 percent—for 26 touchdowns and 2,093 yards.

Brady redshirted in 1997 and earned the starting job last fall. He didn't throw an interception until the sixth game. Against Northern Arizona, Brady completed 14 consecutive passes.

"I see myself being 100 percent better this year," he says. "I kind of know the opponents now, and physically I feel more confident in the pocket. It's like second-hand for me now."—Jim Meehan

shouldn't be a problem. With 10 defensive starters and 14 of the top 16 tacklers back, stopping people shouldn't be a problem, either.

Weaknesses: Miller and Rigell have to prove they can fit into the offensive scheme, which might undergo some changes under new coordinator and former Portland State coach Bob Cole. The Grizzlies must find a running back to replace Brian Gales.

Outlook: The Big Sky's runaway favorite has the schedule working in its favor—three straight home games and an open date to open the season, which should give Miller & Co. time to mesh. Even if the offense sputters, the defense is good enough to keep Montana in games. **Last playoff appearance:** 1998

2 NORTHERN ARIZONA

Nickname: Lumberjacks. **Site:** Flagstaff

Coach: Jerome Souers (6-5, 1 year)

1998 record: 6-5; Big Sky: 3-5 (tie 7th)

Top Players: DL Derek Allen, 6-6, 290, sr.; QB Travis Brown, 6-4, 210, sr.; LB Jake Crissup, 5-10, 215, sr.; LB Afa Faraimo, 5-10, 210, sr.; OL Robert Haws, 6-8, 315, so.; RB Ronney Jenkins, 5-10, 185, jr. (transfer, Brigham Young); RB Marcus King, 5-9, 190, so.; S Raymond Perryman, 6-0, 200, jr.; C Jake Petersen, 6-3, 290, so.; WR Francis St. Paul, 5-10, 180, jr.

Strengths: The offensive line, which improved as last season progressed, should be even better. Brown enters his fourth season as the team's starting quarterback. Jenkins could dominate Big Sky defenses. Faraimo and Crissup are outstanding linebackers.

Weaknesses: The young receivers must show they can complement Jenkins and Brown, and a tight end needs to emerge. New offensive coordinator Brent Pease, hired away from Montana, has been charged with restoring Brown's confidence.

Outlook: If Jenkins supplies the 1,307 rushing yards and 34 receptions he did for Brigham Young last season, look out. Brown was at his best two years ago, when the Lumberjacks had a formidable running back in Archie Amerson. The veteran defense must improve from its middle-of-the-Sky rankings of '98 for Northern Arizona to challenge Montana.

Last playoff appearance: 1996

3 CAL STATE-NORTHRIIDGE

Nickname: Matadors. **Site:** Northridge

Coach: Ron Ponciano (7-4, 1 year)

1998 record: 7-4; Big Sky: 5-3 (tie 2nd)

Top Players: LB Cos Abercrombie, 6-1, 225, so.; WR/KR Aaron Arnold, 6-1, 185, sr.; P Ethan Beck, 6-4, 200, jr.; FB Jaumal Bradley, 5-10, 215, sr.; QB Marcus Brady, 6-1, 185, so.; DB Jeremy Golden, 6-0, 180, jr.; CB Mel Miller, 5-11, 195, sr.; CB Chazz Moore, 6-3, 210, sr.; WR/KR Anthony Ramos, 5-9, 170, jr.; LB Brennan Swanson, 6-3, 230, sr.

Strengths: Brady, who passed for nearly 3,000 yards last season, has the ability to take over games. He has a proven target in Arnold and an improving offensive line that was a weak spot last year. A combined 15 starters return on offense and defense, and every special teamer is back. Team speed is excellent.

Weaknesses: There's no proven running back, but Washington State transfer De Juan Gilmore could provide a ground game. The defensive line must show it can stop the run after getting trampled last season for nearly 200 yards a game.

Outlook: The Matadors could challenge for the league title if the defense holds up its end. Brady is a nightmare for defensive coordinators. If Gilmore rushes for 1,000 yards, the offense figures to be lethal. The secondary is strong. The return of Abercrombie, who suffered a broken jaw last season, should boost the defense.

Last playoff appearance: none

4 PORTLAND STATE

Nickname: Vikings. **Site:** Portland, Ore.

Coach: Tim Walsh (37-32, 6 years; 64-46 overall, 10 years) **1998 record:** 5-6; Big Sky: 4-4 (tie 4th)

Top Players: OT John Andreas, 6-4, 285, jr.; WR Cheo Angel, 5-10, 185, jr.; FS Andre Bishop, 6-1, 195, jr.; QB Jimmy Blanchard, 6-4, 195, jr.; WR Orshawante Bryant, 6-0, 185, jr.; G Scott Casebeer, 6-2, 300, sr.; RB Charles Dunn, 5-9, 180, jr.; CB Rashad Floyd, 5-11, 180, jr.; LB DeAngelo Hunter, 6-3, 235, jr.; LB Tino Retamozo, 6-3, 235, jr.

Strengths: The Vikings have proven players at quarterback (Blanchard), running back (Dunn) and receiver (Bryant). Blanchard had the best pass efficiency rating in I-AA last season (167.6) but didn't play in enough games to qualify for national statistics. Eight starters return from the league's best offense.

Weaknesses: In a word, defense. Pointfests were the norm in '98 and could be again with only three returning starters. Four offensive linemen return; the one missing is All-American Bobby Singh. Turnovers were a problem last season.

Outlook: In many ways, Portland State mirrors Cal State-Northridge: The offense is stellar and the defense is under the microscope. Twelve transfers could bolster the defense. If that happens, the Vikings should be in the title hunt. Portland State will play host to the three teams it finished behind last year—Montana, Montana State and Northridge.

Last playoff appearance: none

5 EASTERN WASHINGTON

Nickname: Eagles. **Site:** Cheney

Coach: Mike Kramer (30-28, 5 years)

1998 record: 5-6; Big Sky: 4-4 (tie 4th)

Top Players: DE Jeff Allen, 6-3, 247, jr.; LB Greg Belzer, 6-1, 233, jr.; C Aaron Best, 6-0, 280, sr.; WR Lamont Brightful, 5-9, 160, jr.; TE Dan Curley, 6-4, 240, so.; OT Lance Knaevelsrud, 6-4, 271, sr.; WR Joe Levens, 5-10, 180, so.; CB LeVar McClary, 5-6, 153, sr.; DT Dario Romero, 6-3, 272, sr.; FS Julian Williams, 6-0, 196, sr.

Strengths: It's getting mundane, but Eastern Washington again is Offensive Line U. Another solid unit gives the Eagles an opportunity to beat up opponents and control the clock. The defense returns 10 starters, including All-Big Sky candidates at each position. The defense is anchored by Belzer in the middle.

Weaknesses: The Eagles are unproven at quarterback in a conference that, as usual, is loaded with talented passers. The receivers must show big-play ability.

Outlook: This is a dangerous team, particularly if Fred Salanoa, the likely starter at quarterback, is productive. Salanoa is more mobile than past Eastern quarterbacks, which could spice up the offense. A repeat of the 1997 championship season is possible.

Last playoff appearance: 1997

6 WEBER STATE

Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Ogden, Utah

Coach: Jerry Graybeal (6-5, 1 year)

1998 record: 6-5; Big Sky: 4-4 (tie 4th)

Top Players: DT Joel Barrow, 6-2, 265, jr.; WR Richard Clarke, 6-3, 225, sr.; QB Cole Cooper, 6-3, 195, jr. (transfer, Ricks junior college); CB Wade Davis, 5-11, 185, sr.; FS Keenan Gordon, 5-11, 190, jr.; G Rick Judd, 6-2, 285, jr.; G Russ Judd, 6-2, 285, jr.; RB Derek Poole, 5-11, 215, sr.; RB Morgan Welch, 5-8, 205, sr.; OT Carl Wright, 6-4, 290, jr.

Strengths: Welch would have been an all-conference running back in most leagues last year, but was overshadowed by Sacramento State's Charles Roberts and Portland State's Charles Dunn. Welch's sidekick, Poole, led Weber in rushing two years ago.

Weaknesses: The defense was decimated by graduation; only four starters return, including the top three tacklers. The quarterback situation remains unsettled. San Diego State transfer Dusty Harris and Cooper will vie for the starting job.

Outlook: The Wildcats could be spoilers but they don't appear to have enough weapons to crack the top three. If

BIG SKY SCHEDULES

CAL STATE-NORTHRIIDGE

Sept. 4 Western Oregon
Sept. 11 at Kansas
Sept. 25 at Eastern Washington
Oct. 2 Idaho State
Oct. 9 at Montana
Oct. 16 Sacramento State
Oct. 23 at Montana State
Oct. 30 Weber State
Nov. 6 at Portland State
Nov. 13 at Southern Methodist
Nov. 20 Northern Arizona

EASTERN WASHINGTON

Sept. 11 Central Washington
Sept. 18 at Portland State
Sept. 25 Cal State Northridge
Oct. 2 at Northern Arizona
Oct. 9 at Boise State
Oct. 16 Idaho State
Oct. 23 at Montana
Oct. 30 Sacramento State
Nov. 6 at Montana State
Nov. 13 Weber State
Nov. 20 Southern Utah

IDAHO STATE

Sept. 4 Eastern Oregon
Sept. 11 Fort Lewis
Sept. 18 at Weber State
Sept. 25 Portland State
Oct. 2 at Cal State Northridge
Oct. 9 Northern Arizona
Oct. 16 at Eastern Washington
Oct. 23 at Southern Utah
Oct. 30 Montana
Nov. 6 at Sacramento State
Nov. 13 Montana State

MONTANA

Sept. 4 South Dakota
Sept. 11 Sacramento State
Sept. 25 Weber State
Oct. 2 at Portland State
Oct. 9 Cal State Northridge
Oct. 16 at Northern Arizona
Oct. 23 Eastern Washington
Oct. 30 at Idaho State
Nov. 6 at Cal Poly
Nov. 13 Idaho
Nov. 21 at Montana State

MONTANA STATE

Sept. 4 Chadron State
Sept. 11 Western New Mexico
Sept. 18 at Cal Poly
Sept. 25 at Sacramento State
Oct. 9 Weber State

Oct. 16 at Portland State
Oct. 23 Cal State Northridge
Oct. 30 at Northern Arizona
Nov. 6 Eastern Washington
Nov. 13 at Idaho State
Nov. 20 Montana

NORTHERN ARIZONA

Sept. 4 Cal Poly
Sept. 18 at New Mexico
Sept. 25 at SW Texas State
Oct. 2 Eastern Washington
Oct. 9 at Idaho State
Oct. 16 Montana
Oct. 23 at Sacramento State
Oct. 30 Montana State
Nov. 6 at Weber State
Nov. 13 Portland State
Nov. 20 at Cal State Northridge

PORTLAND STATE

Sept. 4 at Fresno State
Sept. 11 Western Washington
Sept. 18 Eastern Washington
Sept. 25 at Idaho State
Oct. 2 Montana
Oct. 9 at Sacramento State
Oct. 16 Montana State
Oct. 23 at Weber State
Oct. 30 at Cal Poly
Nov. 6 Cal State Northridge
Nov. 13 at Northern Arizona

SACRAMENTO STATE

Sept. 4 St. Mary's (Calif.)
Sept. 11 at Montana
Sept. 18 California-Davis
Sept. 25 Montana State
Oct. 2 at Weber State
Oct. 9 Portland State
Oct. 16 at Cal State Northridge
Oct. 23 Northern Arizona
Oct. 30 at Eastern Washington
Nov. 6 Idaho State
Nov. 20 at Cal Poly

WEBER STATE

Sept. 2 Western State
Sept. 11 at Wyoming
Sept. 18 Idaho State
Sept. 25 at Montana
Oct. 2 Sacramento State
Oct. 9 at Montana State
Oct. 16 Southern Utah
Oct. 23 Portland State
Oct. 30 at Cal State Northridge
Nov. 6 Northern Arizona
Nov. 13 at Eastern Washington

the offensive line shines, Weber State could pound away at opponents and hog the ball. But a lack of big-play ability figures to limit the number of points the Wildcats score, and their inexperienced defense will have a hard time holding down the score.

Last playoff appearance: 1991

7 MONTANA STATE

Nickname: Bobcats. **Site:** Bozeman

Coach: Cliff Hysell (38-39, 7 years)

1998 record: 7-4. Big Sky: 5-3 (tie 2nd)

Top Players: LB Joe Baker, 6-0, 230, jr.; OT Paul Diercks, 6-6, 293, so.; SS Shon Flores, 6-0, 213, sr.; OT Josh Hausmann, 6-6, 293, so.; WR Chip Hobbs, 6-4, 195, sr.; TB Eric Kinnaman, 5-9, 164, sr.; CB Noel Kulbeck, 5-10,

172, sr.; C Brent Ludwig, 6-5, 296, sr.; DE Jonathan Taylor, 6-3, 240, so.; TB Lathan Tyler, 5-7, 166, jr.

Strengths: The secondary returns, including standout Flores. Montana State led the Big Sky in scoring last season, and the offensive line should be even better. Hobbs might be the league's best receiver. Tyler and Kinnaman form a solid 1-2 punch at running back.

Weaknesses: Team speed remains questionable, and the quarterback candidates—senior Kasey Harte and sophomore Dusty Broderick—are unproven. The defensive line is inexperienced, but probably more talented than last year's group.

Outlook: The Bobcats, who came close to winning the Big Sky last year, don't have the personnel to make a similar run this year. A winning season is possible due to a soft non-conference schedule, but the offense doesn't figure to be as prolific and the defense might be in for a long season.

Last playoff appearance: 1984

8 SACRAMENTO STATE

Nickname: Hornets. **Site:** Sacramento

Coach: John Volek (11-32-1, 4 years)

1998 record: 5-6; **Big Sky:** 3-5 (tie 7th)

Top Players: K Scott Brown, 6-2, 185, sr.; OT Tim Conley, 6-7, 325, sr.; CB Elton Gabourel, 5-11, 170, jr.; TE Chris Kelly, 6-4, 222, sr.; G Jon Osterhout, 6-4, 290, sr.; QB Ricky Ray, 6-3, 195, jr. (transfer, junior college); TB Charles Roberts, 5-6, 175, jr.; C Terence Wagner, 6-4, 270, so.; S Carlos Williams, 5-9, 205, sr.; FB Mike Wooster, 5-11, 215, jr.

Strengths: Ten of 11 offensive starters are back, including Roberts, who last year became the third I-AA or I-AA back to rush for 2,000 yards in a season. With the offensive line returning intact, Roberts should have another big season. The secondary should be improved, and the recruiting class includes Ray, an All-NJCAA quarterback. **Weaknesses:** LBs Ryland Wickman and Shane Scott graduated, as did half of the starting defensive front. Ray or returnee Garrett White needs to emerge at quarterback. **Outlook:** The Hornets took a major step last season, going from one win to five, and their talent level has improved. A six-win, middle-of-the-pack finish would signal another step forward.

Last playoff appearance: none

9 IDAHO STATE

Nickname: Bengals. **Site:** Pocatello

Coach: Larry Lewis (1st year)

1998 record: 3-8; **Big Sky:** 2-6 (9th)

Top Players: LB Craig Broyles, 6-1, 210, so.; K Pete Garcas, 6-3, 200, sr.; WR Brian Goodell, 6-2, 205, sr.; QB Shane Griggs, 6-5, 200, jr.; OL Mike Love, 6-4, 285, sr.; QB Kevin McCarthy, 6-2, 177, jr.; LB Jason Meador, 6-0, 220, jr.; DB Joshua Robinson, 6-0, 185, so.; DB/KR Monte Walzer, 5-7, 161, sr.; RB Nick Whitworth, 5-9, 182, jr. **Strengths:** New coach Larry Lewis, hired from Washington State's staff, has injected enthusiasm into a sagging program. The offensive line has some ability, and Griggs is back. He originally started at Idaho State, left for South Carolina and now is back in Pocatello. Griggs figures to thrive in Lewis' pass-oriented offense. Garcas made 6 of 8 field-goal attempts from 50 yards or longer last year.

Weaknesses: The offense was non-existent a year ago, so Griggs has his work cut out for him. The defense, which allowed 29 or more points in 10 of 11 games, has been retooled. DB Jacori Rufus was killed in an auto wreck, and DeRonn Finley, a high-quality kick returner, has a broken leg and is doubtful for the 1999 season.

Outlook: The Bengals don't have enough talent to compete in the conference. Worse, they don't have a corner-stone player to build around, on offense or defense. Lewis faces a major rebuilding job.

Last playoff appearance: 1983

GATEWAY

1 ILLINOIS STATE

Nickname: Redbirds. **Site:** Normal

Coach: Todd Berry (13-21, 3 years)

1998 record: 8-4; **Gateway:** 4-2 (2nd)

Top Players: RB Aveion Cason, 5-10, 200, jr.; DL Devon Finn, 6-7, 280, sr.; WR Rickey Garrett, 6-3, 215, sr.; QB Kevin Glenn, 5-10, 190, jr.; WR Jacob Niete, 5-8, 175, jr.; G Mike Rodbro, 6-4, 290, jr.; LB Galen Scott, 5-9, 210, jr.; LB Marcus White, 6-3, 230, sr.; CB Sam Young, 5-11, 180, jr.

Strengths: A diverse offense led by game-breakers Glenn, Garrett and Cason believes it will score on every possession and doesn't miss by much (36.1 points a game in '98). The offensive front is evolving into a top-flight unit. The return of LB Tim Angsten, who had been a two-year starter prior to being sidelined last year by academic problems, boosts the defense.

Weaknesses: Redbirds kickers converted 3 of 10 field-goal attempts last season. Illinois State's need for more defensive speed was exposed in its first-round playoff loss to Northwestern State, and the pass defense remains unproven.

Outlook: Berry thinks his defense will make the same quantum leap his offense did in '98. If he's right, the Redbirds could do some damage. Name to remember: sophomore running back Walter James.

Last playoff appearance: none

2 NORTHERN IOWA

Nickname: Panthers. **Site:** Cedar Falls

Coach: Mike Dunbar (14-8, 2 years; 68-17-1 overall, 8 years)

1998 record: 7-4; **Gateway:** 3-3 (tie 3rd)

Top Players: DB Dymon Adams, 6-1, 230, sr.; OT Matt Beals, 6-6, 284, sr.; RB Adam Bengt, 5-11, 185, so.; WR Eddie Berlin, 6-0, 186, jr.; DB Ryan Doak, 6-3, 190, jr.; WR Mike Furrey, 5-10, 177, sr.; QB Ryan Helming, 6-2, 206, jr.; C Brad Meester, 6-4, 287, sr.; DT Jack Mitchell, 6-3, 260, sr.; LB Matt Pedersen, 6-3, 220, sr.

Strengths: Helming's emergence, coupled with the receiving tandem of Furrey and Berlin, should keep the Panthers marching steadily up and down the UNI-Dome turf. Pedersen, Drew Elmer and Brandon Rutledge are a steady and possibly spectacular set of linebackers. **Weaknesses:** After Meester and Beals, the offensive line must sort itself out. The defensive front faces a similar predicament. The kicking spots are so up in the air, Furrey and Berlin were considered for punter in spring practice.

Outlook: In an important year for Dunbar at a school that demands success, the Panthers should build on a strong '98 finish and contend for the Gateway title. Look for an 11th consecutive season of seven or more wins.

Last playoff appearance: 1996

3 YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Nickname: Penguins. **Site:** Youngstown, Ohio

Coach: Jim Tressel (114-51-2, 13 years)

1998 record: 6-5; **Gateway:** 3-3 (tie 3rd)

Top Players: RB Adrian Brown, 6-2, 215, sr.; DT Frank Kaydo, 6-3, 300, sr.; CB Fon Nanji, 6-0, 185, jr.; WR Renauld Ray, 6-2, 200, sr.; G Frank Rutherford, 6-2, 285, sr.; QB Jeff Ryan, 6-0, 185, so.; LB Luke Schumacher, 6-1, 225, jr.; C Ian Shirey, 6-3, 265, sr.; S Dwyte Smiley, 6-2, 205, sr.; LB Kawonza Swan, 6-3, 250, sr. **Strengths:** Shirey and Rutherford make Youngstown, which returns 10 offensive starters, formidable up the middle. Brown is capable of a huge season and might get the carries to pull it off. Smiley is a sideline-to-side-line playmaker.

Weaknesses: Depth on the defensive front is a question, and the linebackers are a bit small. An offense flush with solid players doesn't have one star who strikes fear in the heart of opponents.

Outlook: Tressel attacked defense with a vengeance in recruiting (14 of 15 signees). The success of that effort

GATEWAY SCHEDULES

ILLINOIS STATE

Sept. 2 Truman State
Sept. 11 SE Missouri State
Sept. 18 at Minnesota
Sept. 25 at SW Missouri State
Oct. 2 Northern Iowa
Oct. 9 Indiana State
Oct. 16 at South Florida
Oct. 23 at Southern Illinois
Oct. 30 at Youngstown State
Nov. 6 Western Illinois
Nov. 13 at Eastern Illinois

INDIANA STATE

Sept. 2 at Iowa State
Sept. 11 at Oklahoma
Sept. 18 at Eastern Kentucky
Oct. 2 Youngstown State
Oct. 9 at Illinois State
Oct. 16 SE Missouri State
Oct. 23 Western Illinois
Oct. 30 at Northern Iowa
Nov. 6 Southern Illinois
Nov. 13 Western Kentucky
Nov. 20 at SW Missouri State

NORTHERN IOWA

Sept. 4 at McNeese State
Sept. 11 at Ohio
Sept. 25 Southern Illinois
Oct. 2 at Illinois State
Oct. 9 Cal Poly SLO
Oct. 16 at SW Missouri State
Oct. 23 Youngstown State
Oct. 30 Indiana State
Nov. 13 at Western Illinois
Nov. 20 SW Missouri State
(one game yet to be scheduled)

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Sept. 2 at SE Missouri State
Sept. 11 Murray State
Sept. 18 at Eastern Illinois
Sept. 25 at Northern Iowa
Oct. 2 at South Florida

Oct. 9 Youngstown State

Oct. 16 at Western Illinois
Oct. 23 Illinois State
Oct. 30 SW Missouri State
Nov. 6 at Indiana State
Nov. 20 Western Kentucky

SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE

Sept. 4 at Tulsa
Sept. 11 Texas Southern
Sept. 18 Henderson State
Sept. 25 Illinois State
Oct. 2 at Western Illinois
Oct. 16 Northern Iowa
Oct. 23 at SE Missouri State
Oct. 30 at Southern Illinois
Nov. 6 at Youngstown State
Nov. 13 Tennessee-Marlin
Nov. 20 Indiana State

WESTERN ILLINOIS

Sept. 2 at Northern Illinois
Sept. 11 Mississippi Valley St.
Sept. 18 at Nicholls State
Sept. 25 at Youngstown State
Oct. 2 SW Missouri State
Oct. 9 Elon College
Oct. 16 Southern Illinois
Oct. 23 at Indiana State
Nov. 6 at Illinois State
Nov. 13 Northern Iowa
Nov. 20 Drake

YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Sept. 2 Slippery Rock
Sept. 11 at Western Michigan
Sept. 25 Western Illinois
Oct. 2 at Indiana State
Oct. 9 at Southern Illinois
Oct. 16 Cal Poly SLO
Oct. 23 at Northern Iowa
Oct. 30 Illinois State
Nov. 6 SW Missouri State
Nov. 13 at Villanova

could mean the difference between the Penguins making the playoffs or watching the snow fall at the Ice Castle.

Last playoff appearance: 1997

4 SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE

Nickname: Bears. **Site:** Springfield

Coach: Randy Ball (1st year; 64-41-1 overall, 9 years)

1998 record: 5-6; **Gateway:** 3-3 (tie 3rd)

Top Players: K/P Travis Brawner, 6-0, 186, sr.; G Tony Flint, 6-2, 305, sr.; FS Mike Galley, 6-0, 182, so.; CB Isaac Harvin, 6-0, 190, sr.; WR Jeff Hewitt, 5-11, 182, jr.; TB Carlos Honore, 5-10, 195, so. (transfer, Iowa); LB Corky Martin, 5-10, 218, jr.; QB Jay Rodgers, 6-1, 200, sr. (transfer, Indiana); TE Brad St. Louis, 6-4, 242, sr.; DE Mario Turner, 6-4, 245, so.

Strengths: Ball's arrival from Western Illinois is an infusion of enthusiasm. Starting experience returns at 19 of 22 positions. Ball addressed the other three spots with transfers. Brawner connects from long distance without dialing 10-10 anything.

Weaknesses: All those returnees were 5-6 each of the past two seasons. They have yet to prove capable of earning conference hardware. Ball thinks his team needs to upgrade in depth, discipline and speed. The offense must adjust not only to a new scheme but also to a new quarterback (Rodgers).

Outlook: Ball is a proven winner in the Gateway. The Bears' adjustment to the accompanying intricacies and his transfer-heavy approach to recruiting will be critical

Gateway

BY RANDY REINHARDT, BLOOMINGTON (ILL.) PANTAGRAPH

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Mike Furrey, Northern Iowa	5-9	177	Sr.
WR	Rickey Garrett, Illinois State	6-2	205	Sr.
TE	Brad St. Louis, SW Missouri State	6-4	242	Sr.
T	Matt Beals, Northern Iowa	6-5	284	Sr.
T	Casey Honkomp, Western Illinois	6-5	300	Sr.
G	Tony Flint, SW Missouri State	6-2	305	Sr.
G	Mike Rodbro, Illinois State	6-4	290	Jr.
C	Brad Meester, Northern Iowa	6-4	290	Sr.
QB	Kevin Glenn, Illinois State	5-9	185	Jr.
RB	Karlton Carpenter, Southern Illinois	5-9	199	Sr.
RB	Aveion Cason, Illinois State	5-9	200	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Troy Lefevra, Indiana State	6-3	216	Sr.
T	Frank Kaydo, Youngstown State	6-1	305	Sr.
E	Shannon Jackson, Indiana State	6-2	270	Sr.
LB	Matt Pedersen, Northern Iowa	6-3	220	Sr.
LB	Galen Scott, Illinois State	5-8	205	Jr.
LB	Corky Martin, SW Missouri State	5-10	218	Jr.
LB	Kawonza Swan, Youngstown State	6-3	225	Sr.
CB	DeJuan Alfonzo, Indiana State	5-11	190	Sr.
CB	Isaac Harvin, SW Missouri State	6-0	190	Sr.
S	Dwyte Smiley, Youngstown State	6-2	205	Sr.
S	Bart Scott, Southern Illinois	6-2	200	So.

SPECIALISTS

K	Travis Brawner, SW Missouri State	6-0	186	Sr.
P	Jake Strader, Illinois State	5-10	190	Jr.
KR	DeJuan Alfonzo, Indiana State	5-11	190	Sr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Jay Rodgers, QB, SW Mo. St.
Top defensive newcomer: Bryan Hawthorne, E, Y'gstown
Best offensive backfield: Illinois State
Best wide receivers: Northern Iowa
Best offensive line: Illinois State
Best defensive line: Indiana State
Best linebackers: Northern Iowa
Best secondary: Southwest Missouri State
Best special teams: Southwest Missouri State
Hardest hitter: DeJuan Alfonzo, CB, Indiana State
Best backup QB: Jared Zwick, Youngstown State
Best pro prospect: Shannon Jackson, Indiana State
Best game-day atmosphere: Youngstown State

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Kevin Glenn, QB, Illinois State
Defense: Shannon Jackson, T, Indiana State

to initial as well as lasting success.
Last playoff appearance: 1990

5 WESTERN ILLINOIS

Nickname: Leathernecks. **Site:** Macomb
Coach: Don Patterson (1st year)
1998 record: 11-3; Gateway: 5-1 (1st)
Top players: DL Byron Benion, 5-11, 210, sr.; CB Sam Gilmore, 6-1, 180, jr.; LB Edgerton Hartwell, 6-2, 230, sr.; OL Casey Honkomp, 6-5, 300, sr.; K Joe Lopez, 5-9, 180, jr.; RB Erik Rogers, 5-11, 200, sr.; OL Rich Seibert, 6-5, 250, jr.; DB/LS Ryan Taylor, 6-0, 195, sr.; CB Derrick Varnado, 5-11, 200, sr.; QB Mark Zanders, 6-3, 225, sr.
Strengths: Zanders should be able to handle a bigger role in the offense. If line standout Dave Watson is granted another year of eligibility, the Leathernecks defense instantly becomes more stout. Lopez and Jeff Baker are a dynamic kicker-punter duo.
Weaknesses: Randy Ball is not Bear Bryant, but he left behind a considerable legacy. Also, the graduation of rushing marvel Aaron Stecker takes a meteor-sized chunk out of the offense. The line that will block for Stecker's replacement is of uncertain quality.
Outlook: Stecker and Ball have moved on, and Western never will be the same. Patterson has the credentials for success, but the apparent change in approach seems to point to a tough transition.
Last playoff appearance: 1998

6 INDIANA STATE

Nickname: Sycamores. **Site:** Terre Haute
Coach: Tim McGuire (5-6, 1 year; 12-21 overall, 3 years)
1998 record: 5-6; Gateway: 2-4 (6th)
Top players: CB DeJuan Alfonzo, 5-11, 190, sr.; LB Mike Bandy, 6-0, 232, sr.; QB Sheraton Fox, 5-9, 170, so.; RB Keith Herron, 5-8, 175, jr.; DE Shannon Jackson, 6-2, 270, sr.; DE Troy Lefevra, 6-3, 216, sr.; C Eric Martin, 6-2, 260, jr.; RB Matt Nelson, 5-10, 208, sr.; LB Tony Pryor, 6-0, 205, sr.; RB Jared Sessum, 5-10, 205, jr.
Strengths: McGuire's triple option has potential leaders in athletic quarterbacks Fox and Steve Englehart. Jackson and Lefevra must be accounted for on every play. Alfonzo is a top-notch defender and a special teams wizard.
Weaknesses: The offense has a long way to go and must prove capable of taking advantage of a potentially excellent defense. That defense needs a bit of help at outside linebacker and with secondary depth.
Outlook: With four of the first five games on the road, Indiana State faces a daunting task. If the offense hits its stride for conference action, a top-four finish is a possibility.
Last playoff appearance: 1984

7 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Nickname: Salukis. **Site:** Carbondale
Coach: Jan Quarless (6-16, 2 years; 7-21 overall, 3 years)
1998 record: 3-8; Gateway: 1-5 (7th)
Top players: RB Karlton Carpenter, 5-9, 199, sr.; WR Cornell Craig, WR, 6-1, 167, sr.; OL Brandon Frick, 6-3, 278, sr.; WR Brian Hamlett, 6-2, 190, so.; CB Ricky Haywood, 5-10, 175, fr.; C Jim Lawhorn, 6-1, 272, sr.; DB

Jason O'Neill, 6-0, 190, jr.; DB Bart Scott, 6-2, 200, so.; DL Tavita Tovia, 6-0, 262, jr.; OL John Whitehead, 6-7, 330, so. (transfer/Wake Forest)
Strengths: Carpenter is a relentless runner who rarely succumbs to the initial defender. He may get—and probably can handle—40 carries a game. Craig is among the league's top five receivers. Shifting from linebacker to free safety, Scott should pile up the tackles.
Weaknesses: As usual, defense, defense, defense. The much-maligned unit is extremely young, and even the most optimistic Salukis backer has to search long and hard for hope. Both lines need more bulk.
Outlook: If new quarterback Shared Potete is as good as the Salukis think, the offense should be diversified enough to be competitive. But Southern Illinois has too many reasons to be defensive about its defense.
Last playoff appearance: 1983

IVY

1 BROWN

Nickname: Bears. **Site:** Providence, R.I.
Coach: Phil Estes (7-3, 1 year)
1998 record: 7-3; Ivy: 5-2 (tie 2nd)
Top Players: LB Louis Ames, 6-0, 225, sr.; DT Jeff Boulanger, 5-11, 255, sr.; G Peter Calabrese, 6-0, 265, sr.; WR Steve Campbell, 6-3, 220, sr.; DT Gordon Chen, 6-3, 245, jr.; RB Kevin Coyne, 5-10, 185, sr.; FS Jason Lucas, 6-4, 220, so.; QB James Perry, 6-1, 200, sr.; SS Azibo Smith, 5-9, 190, sr.; G Jason Wargin, 6-2, 265, sr.
Strengths: Start with Perry, who passed for a league-high 3,165 yards and 23 touchdowns last season. Perry has one of his top two receivers back in Campbell, who caught 61 passes for 713 yards and six touchdowns last year. The hope in Providence is that freshman Chas Gessner can replace All-Ivy receiver Sean Morey and the Bears offense will continue to dominate. Don't be surprised to see running back Kevin Coyne (4.1 yards a carry last year) get more involved.
Weaknesses: Brown allowed almost as many points (241) as it scored last year (265), and other than safeties Jason Lucas and Azibo Smith there isn't much on defense.
Outlook: Morey will be missed, but if the Bears can avoid the slow start that plagued them last year they may be able to overtake Penn for the league title.
Last league title: 1976

2 PENNSYLVANIA

Nickname: Quakers. **Site:** Philadelphia
Coach: Al Bagnoli (52-17, 7 years; 138-36 overall, 17 years)
1998 record: 8-2; Ivy: 6-1 (1st)
Top Players: G Mike Bertolino, 6-5, 270, sr.; WR Brandon Carson, 5-11, 190, sr.; FB Brian Cosmello, 6-2, 235, sr.; DT Mike Germino, 6-1, 250, sr.; LB Jim Hisgen, 6-2, 230, sr.; OT Jason Lebron, 6-6, 300, sr.; WR Doug O'Neill, 6-0, 205, sr.; NG Adrian Puzio, 5-11, 255, sr.; C Carmelo Rubano, 6-2, 265, sr.; FS Hasani White, 5-11, 190, sr.
Strengths: The defending champs return the middle of a defense that ranked second in the league in total yards and second in rushing yards. Germino, Puzio and Hisgen are going to make it tough to move the ball on the Quakers again this season.
Weaknesses: Penn's biggest challenge will be to replace

Kevin Glenn's Illinois State career has reached the halfway mark. The junior quarterback's assault on the Redbirds' record book, however, is nearing completion.
 After two seasons in Normal, Glenn has 37 touchdown passes and 5,183 yards passing. Both rank second in Illinois State history behind the 49 touchdowns and 6,238 yards of John Coppins.
 Glenn has been the point man on a revival that produced an 8-4 record (matching the school stan-

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Kevin Glenn, Illinois State



dard for wins) and Illinois State's first Division I-AA playoff berth last season. He set school records in 1998 with 2,818 yards passing and 25 touchdown tosses, and ranked ninth nationally in total offense and 14th in passing efficiency. Illinois State led the Gateway Conference and ranked eighth nationally with 36.1 points per game.
 Because Glenn stands only 5-9, Illinois State's offensive linemen do not form the traditional pocket to protect him. They engage defenders as close to the line of scrimmage as possible to afford Glenn the best view downfield. That adjustment doesn't bother coach Todd Berry: "It has worked out great for us." —Randy Reinhardt

BY MARK ECKEL, TRENTON (DEL.) TIMES

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Stephen Campbell, Brown	6-3	220	Jr.
WR	Joe Splendorio, Cornell	6-5	222	Jr.
TE	Chris Eitzmann, Harvard	6-4	245	Sr.
T	Matt Radley, Columbia	6-2	295	Sr.
T	Dennis Norman, Princeton	6-3	275	Jr.
G	Hamin Abdullah, Princeton	6-3	285	Sr.
G	Jason Wargin, Brown	6-2	265	Sr.
C	Carmelo Rubano, Pennsylvania	6-2	275	Sr.
QB	James Perry, Brown	6-1	200	Sr.
RB	Rashad Bartholomew, Yale	5-11	198	Sr.
RB	Chris Menick, Harvard	6-2	185	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	David Ferrara, Princeton	6-3	255	Sr.
E	Peter Sarantos, Yale	6-3	245	Sr.
T	Adrian Puzio, Pennsylvania	6-0	260	Sr.
T	Michael Germino, Pennsylvania	6-1	260	Sr.
LB	Isaiah Kacyvenski, Harvard	6-3	235	Sr.
LB	Kevin Wright, Columbia	6-2	230	Sr.
LB	Steve Varney, Dartmouth	6-2	230	Sr.
CB	Todd Tomich, Yale	5-10	170	Jr.
CB	Gerry Wilson, Princeton	5-11	175	Jr.
S	Azibo Smith, Brown	5-9	190	Sr.
S	Brad Eissler, Dartmouth	5-11	180	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Mike Murawczyk, Yale	6-2	185	Jr.
P	Wayne Schlobohm, Dartmouth	6-2	220	Sr.
KR	Todd Tomich, Yale	5-7	170	Jr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Chas Gessner, WR, Brown

Top defensive newcomer: Jerry Bailey, E, Columbia

Best offensive backfield: Yale

Best wide receivers: Brown

Best offensive line: Princeton

Best defensive line: Pennsylvania

Best linebackers: Harvard

Best secondary: Yale

Best special teams: Yale

Hardest hitter: Isaiah Kacyvenski, Harvard

Best backup QB: Eric Webber, Brown

Best pro prospect: David Ferrara, DE, Princeton

Best game-day atmosphere: Princeton

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: James Perry, QB, Brown

Defense: David Ferrara, E, Princeton

quarterback Matt Rader, who ranked first in the league in passing efficiency (134.9) and completed 62 percent of his passes, and running back James Finn, who rushed for 1,450 yards and 17 touchdowns. Neither task is going to be easy.

Outlook: Penn is going to have to win with defense. But can its defense stop Brown's high-powered offense? That's the question of the season.

Last league title: 1998

3 YALE

Nickname: Bulldogs. **Site:** New Haven, Conn.

Coach: Jack Siedlecki (7-13, 2 years; 63-35-2 overall, 11 years)

1998 record: 6-4; Ivy: 5-2 (tie 2nd)

Top Players: RB Rashad Bartholomew, 5-11, 198, sr.; DB Ben Blake, 6-0, 200, sr.; WR Jake Borden, 6-4, 210, sr.; WR Jake Fuller, 5-9, 185, sr.; DE Jeff Hockenbrock, 6-6, 250, sr.; LB Peter Mazza, 6-0, 220, jr.; K/P Mike Murawczyk, 6-1, 195, jr.; DE Peter Sarantos, 6-4, 242, sr.; DB Todd Tomich, 5-10, 170, jr.; QB Joe Walland, 5-11, 200, sr.

Strengths: Tomich is one of the league's most exciting players. The Ivy's answer to Deion Sanders, Tomich can beat you a lot of ways. Yale will be able to score some points on offense with a backfield that includes Wallard (12 touchdowns passing, six rushing last year) and Bartholomew (936 yards rushing).

Weaknesses: Yale's 259 points allowed last season was the worst in the league, although 63 of those came in a non-league loss to Connecticut. But other than Tomich and Sarantos, the defense is still suspect.

Outlook: The Bulldogs' turnaround began last year when they recorded a winning record and finished tied with Brown for second. Look for another winning season.

Last league title: 1981

4 PRINCETON

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Princeton, N.J.

Coach: Steve Tosches (75-43-2, 12 years)

1998 record: 5-5; Ivy: 4-3 (4th)

Top Players: G Hamin Abdullah, 6-3, 290, sr.; LB Drew Babinecz, 6-2, 225, so.; FS Ryan Demler, 6-1, 215, sr.; DE David Ferrara, 6-5, 260, sr.; LB Chuck Hastings, 6-2, 235, sr.; OT Dennis Norman, 6-5, 290, jr.; P/K Taylor Northrup, 5-11, 165, so.; RB Derek Thiesen, 6-0, 200, sr.; WR Phil Wendler, 6-4, 210, sr.; DB Gerry Wilson, 5-11, 190, sr.

Strengths: The Tigers defense, which ranked first in the league in both points allowed and yards allowed last year, returns the star of that unit in Ferrara. The return of Wilson, who missed last year because of a knee injury, is also a boost to Tosches' team.

Weaknesses: Princeton's defense was great last year, and still the team finished 5-5 because the offense struggled. Maybe the Tigers just didn't want to mess up the end zones in their new stadium.

Outlook: The Tigers, as always, will be in every game. If they can find a way to score, they will win more than they lose.

Last league title: 1997

5 HARVARD

Nickname: Crimson. **Site:** Cambridge, Mass.

IVY SCHEDULES

BROWN

Sept. 18 at Yale
Sept. 25 Lafayette
Oct. 2 Cornell
Oct. 9 Princeton
Oct. 16 Rhode Island
Oct. 23 at Pennsylvania
Oct. 30 at Fordham
Nov. 6 Harvard
Nov. 13 at Dartmouth
Nov. 20 Columbia

HARVARD

Sept. 18 Columbia
Sept. 25 at Holy Cross
Oct. 2 Colgate
Oct. 9 at Cornell
Oct. 16 at Fordham
Oct. 23 Princeton
Oct. 30 Dartmouth
Nov. 6 at Brown
Nov. 13 Pennsylvania
Nov. 20 at Yale

COLUMBIA

Sept. 18 at Harvard
Sept. 25 Towson
Oct. 2 at Lehigh
Oct. 9 Bucknell
Oct. 16 Pennsylvania
Oct. 23 Yale
Oct. 30 at Princeton
Nov. 6 Dartmouth
Nov. 13 at Cornell
Nov. 20 at Brown

PENNSYLVANIA

Sept. 18 Dartmouth
Sept. 25 Villanova
Oct. 2 Bucknell
Oct. 9 Fordham
Oct. 16 at Columbia
Oct. 23 Brown
Oct. 30 at Yale
Nov. 6 Princeton
Nov. 13 at Harvard
Nov. 20 Cornell

CORNELL

Sept. 18 at Princeton
Sept. 25 Fordham
Oct. 2 at Brown
Oct. 9 Harvard
Oct. 16 at Colgate
Oct. 23 at Dartmouth
Oct. 30 Wagner
Nov. 6 Yale
Nov. 13 Columbia
Nov. 20 at Pennsylvania

PRINCETON

Sept. 18 Cornell
Sept. 25 Lehigh
Oct. 2 Fordham
Oct. 9 at Brown
Oct. 16 Lafayette
Oct. 23 at Harvard
Oct. 30 Columbia
Nov. 6 at Pennsylvania
Nov. 13 Yale
Nov. 20 at Dartmouth

DARTMOUTH

Sept. 18 at Pennsylvania
Sept. 25 Colgate
Oct. 2 at Lafayette
Oct. 9 Lehigh
Oct. 16 at Yale
Oct. 23 Cornell
Oct. 30 at Harvard
Nov. 6 at Columbia
Nov. 13 Brown
Nov. 20 Princeton

YALE

Sept. 18 Brown
Sept. 25 Valparaiso
Oct. 2 at San Diego
Oct. 9 at Holy Cross
Oct. 16 Dartmouth
Oct. 23 at Columbia
Oct. 30 Pennsylvania
Nov. 6 at Cornell
Nov. 13 at Princeton
Nov. 20 Harvard

Coach: Tim Murphy (23-27, 5 years; 55-72-1 overall, 12 years).

1998 record: 4-6; Ivy: 3-4 (tie 5th)

Top Players: DB Willie Alford, 5-10, 180, so.; OT Mike Clare, 6-4, 300, jr.; TE Chris Eitzmann, 6-4, 245, sr.; LB Isaiah Kacyvenski, 6-2, 240, sr.; QB Rich Linden, 6-0, 200, sr.; TB Chris Menick, 5-10, 190, sr.; DE Chris Nowinski, 6-5, 285, sr.; WR Terence Patterson, 6-0, 195, sr.; DE Mike Sands, 6-4, 235, sr.; CB Kane Walker, 5-9, 180, sr.

Strengths: Kacyvenski is a legitimate prospect who may draw a few NFL scouts to Cambridge this fall. Menick will be asked to do even better than his 85.3 rushing

Brown University, as well as the rest of the Ivy League, found out about the resolve of Bears quarterback James Perry two weeks before last season's first game. That's when Perry suffered a partial tear of the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

"There was no way anyone thought he was going to be able to play," says Brown sports information director Chris Humm. "But he kept saying he would, and he did."

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

James Perry, Brown



Perry not only started the season opener against Yale, he led the Bears to 28 points. Perry played in every game for Brown last season. After getting completely healthy, he led the Bears to six straight victories. Included in that streak was a 58-51 win over league champion Pennsylvania in which he passed for 470 yards.

Despite the preseason injury, Perry finished second in Division I-AA in total offense (310.2 yards per game) and set an Ivy League record for most completions in a season (274). He needs 1,811 yards to pass Columbia's John Witkowski (1981-83) and become the Ivy League's all-time passing leader. —Mark Eckel

BROWN UNIVERSITY

yards per game last year. There is a bright future with an excellent freshman class enrolled.

Weaknesses: Harvard used two quarterbacks in all 10 games last season, and the duo finished ninth and 10th in the eight-team league in pass efficiency. The Crimson scored just 136 points and could have problems in that area again.

Outlook: If the young players get accustomed to the system in a hurry, things could be better than expected. Look for a better team at the end of the season than at the beginning.

Last league title: 1997

6 COLUMBIA

Nickname: Lions. **Site:** New York

Coach: Ray Teller (32-66-2, 10 years; 53-92-3 overall, 14 years)

1998 record: 4-6; Ivy: 3-4 (tie 5th)

Top Players: SS Jason Bivens, 5-8, 185, sr.; WR Armand Dawkins, 6-2, 190, sr.; TB Norman Hayes, 5-8, 185, sr.; P Ryan Kieman, 6-1, 185, jr.; FB Kirby Mack, 6-1, 230, jr.; CB Andre Ogundare, 5-10, 180, sr.; OT Matt Radley, 6-3, 285, sr.; TB Johnathan Reese, 6-1, 200, so.; DT Jon Sproul, 6-2, 245, sr.; LB Kevin Wright, 6-2, 230, sr.

Strengths: Reese, last year's Ivy rookie of the year, gained 92 yards the final game in what the Lions hope is a good omen for this season. Reese, Hayes and Mack should help improve a running game that averaged just 3 yards a carry last year. Defensively, Columbia should hold its own, led by Bivens.

Weaknesses: It doesn't appear the Lions are going to have much of a passing game again this season. Last year they threw just six touchdown passes, or 17 fewer than Brown's Perry. If defenses crowd the line, the offense is going to struggle again.

Outlook: The Lions were 4-1 when they scored 20 or more points last year and 1-5 when they scored fewer than 20. If you can't score, you can't win.

Last league title: 1961 (tie)

7 CORNELL

Nickname: Big Red. **Site:** Ithaca, N.Y.

Coach: Pete Mangurian (4-6, 1 year)

1998 record: 4-6; Ivy: 1-6 (tie 7th)

Top Players: HB Justin Bush, 5-7, 153, sr.; DE Tom Crone, 6-0, 248, jr.; FS Matt Duren, 5-11, 169, jr.; LB Nate Fischer, 6-1, 216, sr.; HB Deon Harris, 6-0, 217, sr.; DE Joe Norris, 6-2, 241, sr.; LB David Pitman, 5-11, 219, sr.; CB Phil Rigueur, 5-8, 190, jr.; WR Joe Splendorio, 6-5, 222, jr.; DL Rich Zacek, 6-2, 230, so.

Strengths: Splendorio caught 46 passes for 677 yards, scored six touchdowns and led the league with a 14.7 yards per catch average. Bush gained 200 yards on just 46 carries and is going to have to be the workhorse back this year.

Weaknesses: Someone is going to have to step up at quarterback, or Splendorio's talents will be wasted. The Big Red were 4-2 last season before losing their final four games. They don't exactly head into this season on a high.

Outlook: It looks like another long season in Ithaca unless some young players develop, or there are some unknowns who become known in a hurry. Last year's four-game losing streak might have been a sign of what's ahead.

Last league title: 1990

8 DARTMOUTH

Nickname: Big Green. **Site:** Hanover, N.H.

Coach: John Lyons (46-23-1, 7 years)

1998 record: 2-8; Ivy: 1-6 (tie 7th)

Top Players: TB Reginald Belhomme, 6-0, 205, sr.; FB Bob Bunn, 6-2, 215, jr.; S Brad Eissler, 5-11, 180, jr.; QB Brian Mann, 6-2, 190, so.; OT Sean O'Mara, 6-6, 275, so.; WR Mike Poncy, 6-2, 190, sr.; CB Tom Reusser, 5-11, 180, sr.; P Wayne Schlobohm, 6-2, 260, sr.; DE Kyle Schroeder, 6-3, 250, sr.; LB Steve Varney, 6-2, 230, sr.

Strengths: The Big Green have the league's best punter in Schlobohm, who averaged 40.3 yards on his 67 punts last season. Varney and Eissler should have big years defensively.

Weaknesses: Schlobohm had better be good, because he's going to get a lot of work. His 67 punts last year were a league high, and with an offense that managed just 142 points, a punter becomes too important. The offense appears to be young and inexperienced, which could mean more punts for Schlobohm.

Outlook: It wasn't that long ago that behind QB Jay Fiedler, Dartmouth was the class of the league. It just seems that way.

Last league title: 1996

MID-EASTERN

1 FLORIDA A&M

Nickname: Rattlers. **Site:** Tallahassee

Coach: Billy Joe (44-16, 5 years; 195-79-4 overall, 25 years)

1998 record: 11-2; Mid-Eastern: 7-1 (tie 1st)

Top Players: LB Wendell Ashley, 6-0, 200, jr.; LB Patrick Burrows, 6-0, 230, jr.; DE Tyrone Johnson, 6-1, 265, sr.; WR Cainon Lamb, 6-0, 190, jr.; WR Cedric Mitchell, 6-0, 180, sr.; CB Vernon Mitchell, 6-0, 210, jr.; WR Jacquay Nunnally, 5-11, 200, jr.; DT Eddie Parsons, 6-1, 260, jr.; P T.J. Smith, 5-11, 165, so.; FB Kenneth Williams, 6-1, 240, sr.

Strengths: The Rattlers are loaded at the wideout position. Nunnally, a 1998 All-American, Lamb and Mitchell combined for 3,399 yards and 29 TDs last year. A game-tested defense, spearheaded by Johnson and Burrows, figures to be more prominent in '99.

Weaknesses: With Juan Toro gone, kicking is suspect. Ditto for the quarterback position. Quinn Gray has a strong arm and throws accurately, but he is untested in games.

Outlook: The reloaded Rattlers should be OK if they can come out of the season opener against Miami, Fla., in good health. If that's the case, A&M will hard to stop. The schedule could work against the Rattlers. Billy Joe's team has tough road games at Hampton and North Carolina A&T.

Last playoff appearance: 1998

2 HAMPTON

Nickname: Pirates. **Site:** Hampton, Va.

Coach: Joe Taylor (63-18-1, 7 years; 124-47-4 overall, 16 years)

1998 record: 9-3; Mid-Eastern: 7-1 (tie 1st)

Top Players: DT Michael Bland, 6-4, 285, jr.; RB Montrell Coley, 5-8, 190, jr.; OT Mitchell Foreman, 6-4, 305, sr.; LB Deon Hunt, 6-1, 230, sr.; QB Roy Johnson, 6-2, 185, sr.; FB Mike Jones, 6-2, 240, sr.; DT Ronnie Jones, 6-5, 310, sr.; C Kelly McClendon, 6-4, 305, sr.; G Jason Thomas, 6-4, 290, sr.; TE Adrian Wideman, 6-4, 260, sr.

Strengths: There is a solid lineup up front on both sides of the ball. Johnson isn't spectacular, but he knows the offense and rarely makes mistakes. The big gun is versatile Coley. The special teams are in grade-A condition.

Weaknesses: The Pirates are in dire need of two defensive ends and two outside linebackers who are capable of taking charge of a game. The passing attack could use a few new wrinkles to keep defenses from stacking the line to plug the ground game.

Outlook: Hampton will be right in the heat of the battle for the title. The key game is a home match with Florida A&M. If the Pirates win that one, they could claim their third straight conference title.

Last playoff appearance: 1998

3 BETHUNE-COOKMAN

Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Daytona Beach, Fla.

Coach: Alvin Wyatt Sr. (12-10, 2 years)

1998 record: 8-3; Mid-Eastern: 6-2 (3rd)

Top Players: OL Chris Brown, 6-3, 342, sr.; RG Terrence Butler, 6-2, 292, sr.; DL Damion Cook, 6-5, 295, jr.; LB Terry Doctor, 6-0, 225, sr.; K/P Danny Mathis, 5-10, 180, so.; RB Jay Rogers, 5-11, 200, so.; OL Jesus Sarduy, 6-4, 260, jr.; NG Rod Smith, 6-0, 270, sr.; WR/PR Antonio Stanley, 5-9, 170, jr.; QB Patell Troutman, 5-11, 175, jr.

Strengths: The good news is that the Wyattbone—Bethune's version of the wishbone—is good to go. The entire offensive line returns, and so do QB Troutman and Rogers. Troutman, 1998 Mid-Eastern rookie of the year, rushed for 1,054 yards and 15 TDs. Rogers averaged 6.3 yards a carry and finished the season with 692 yards and five TDs.

Weaknesses: The defense could be hard-pressed to duplicate last season's feats, when it led the league in fewest yards allowed (284.3 a game), sacks (40) and pass defense efficiency. LBs Antron Wright and James Souder will be missed. Doctor has to step in and take up the slack. One key for the Wildcats is how quickly CB Nick Rawls emerges as a leader in the secondary.

Outlook: The Wildcats want to show everyone that last year's third-place finish was no fluke. They appear to be on the right track, coming off their best recruiting year since moving to Division I-A in 1980. Wyatt has fashioned a formidable group that believes in its abilities. It doesn't hurt matters that Bethune-Cookman has home dates against contenders Hampton, South Carolina State and North Carolina A&T.

Last playoff appearance: none

4 NORTH CAROLINA A&T

Nickname: Aggies. **Site:** Greensboro

Coach: Bill Hayes (74-48, 11 years; 164-90-2 overall, 23 years)

1998 record: 8-3; Mid-Eastern: 5-3 (tie 4th)

Top Players: WR/PR Chris Caldwell, 5-8, 165, jr.; LB Dwaine Carpenter, 6-3, 205, sr.; FB Eric Farmer, 6-1, 245, jr.; FB Kevin Hubbard, 5-11, 265, sr.; FS Darryl Klugh, 6-2, 190, sr.; LB B.J. Little, 5-11, 220, jr.; G Chad Mann, 6-2, 325, sr.; LB Ray Massey, 6-2, 240, sr.; WR/KR Romando North, 5-11, 170, jr.; DE Shawn Paylor, 6-2, 230, sr.

Strengths: The defense could be monstrous, as the Aggies are stocked with quickness and athleticism. Massey rates among the league's best linebackers, and Klugh is a savvy defender.

Weaknesses: A&T must get more out of its passing game. An inconsistent passing attack last year contributed to A&T failing to challenge for a playoff spot.

Outlook: A&T enters its second season in the multiple-I offense. If Hayes' crew is able to generate some fireworks against the league's elite, the Aggies could make a strong run for the title. If not, they're destined for a middle-of-the-pack finish.

Last playoff appearance: 1992

5 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

Nickname: Bulldogs. **Site:** Orangeburg

Coach: Willie Jeffries (115-58-4, 16 years; 166-112-6 overall, 26 years)

1998 record: 5-6; Mid-Eastern: 3-4 (6th)

Top Players: OL Tyrone Bell, 6-1, 255, sr.; OL Steve Colimon, 6-2, 305, sr.; LB Derrick Dingle, 6-2, 220, sr.; RB Chad Eaddy, 5-10, 190, jr.; DB Trell James, 5-10, 180, sr.; DB Stephon Kelly, 6-2, 195, jr.; WR Johnny Loper, 5-9, 175, sr.; TE Arthur Love, 6-3, 230, jr.; RB Derek O'Neal, 6-1, 205, sr.; DL Antonio Williams, 6-7, 270, sr.

Strengths: With Steve Colimon, Fred Pyles and Patrick Heard back, South Carolina State has the makings of an outstanding offensive line. Whoever emerges as the quarterback has reliable weapons in Eaddy and Loper.

Weaknesses: The defense has several question marks, especially in the secondary. The Bulldogs could be extremely vulnerable and will need a vicious pass rush to mask deficiencies in pass coverage.

Outlook: For South Carolina State to contend, the offense must score often enough to keep the pressure off an inexperienced defense.

Last playoff appearance: 1982

6 HOWARD

Nickname: Bison. **Site:** Washington, D.C.

Coach: Steve Wilson (68-44, 10 years)

MEAC

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE, GREENSBORO (N.C.) NEWS & RECORD

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jacquay Nunnally, Florida A&M	5-10	185	Jr.
WR	Cainon Lamb, Florida A&M	5-11	185	Sr.
TE	Adrian Wideman, Hampton	6-4	225	Sr.
T	Mitchell Foreman, Hampton	6-4	305	Sr.
T	Jesus Sarduy, Bethune-Cookman	6-4	260	Jr.
G	Terrence Butler, Bethune-Cookman	6-2	298	Sr.
G	Chris Brown, Bethune-Cookman	6-3	342	Sr.
C	Kelly McClendon, Hampton	6-4	285	Sr.
QB	Pa'tell Troutman, Bethune-Cookman	5-11	175	Sr.
RB	Angelo Todd, Norfolk State	5-10	195	Sr.
RB	Montrell Coley, Hampton	5-8	190	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Tyronn Johnson, Florida A&M	6-2	272	Sr.
E	Larry Tucker, Morgan State	5-11	275	Sr.
T	Michael Bland, Hampton	6-4	270	Sr.
T	Damion Cook, Bethune-Cookman	6-4	288	Jr.
LB	Deon Hunt, Hampton	6-1	220	Sr.
LB	Terry Doctor, Bethune-Cookman	6-0	225	Sr.
LB	Ray Massey, North Carolina A&T	6-3	235	Sr.
CB	Omar Evans, Howard	6-0	185	Sr.
CB	Donald Turner, Hampton	5-11	190	Jr.
S	Warner Herndon, Morgan State	6-3	205	Sr.
S	Darryl Klugh, North Carolina A&T	6-2	190	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Cody Vasquez, Morgan State	5-11	180	Jr.
P	T.J. Smith, Florida A&M	5-10	150	So.
KR	Antonio Stanley, Bethune-Cookman	5-9	175	So.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Jeremy Thomas, RB, B-C
Top defensive newcomer: Kirk Mitchell, T, Morgan St.
Best offensive backfield: Hampton
Best wide receivers: Florida A&M
Best offensive line: Hampton
Best defensive line: Hampton
Best linebackers: Hampton
Best secondary: North Carolina A&T
Best special teams: Hampton
Hardest hitter: Deon Hunt, LB, Hampton
Best backup QB: Randall Foster, Bethune-Cookman
Best pro prospect: Jacquay Nunnally, WR, Florida A&M
Best game-day atmosphere: Florida A&M

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Jacquay Nunnally, WR, Florida A&M.
Defense: Deon Hunt, LB, Hampton.

1998 record: 7-4; Mid-Eastern: 5-3 (tie 4th)

Top Players: LB LaMonte Darden, 6-2, 230, sr.; CB Omar Evans, 6-0, 185, jr.; RB Jermaine Hutchinson, 5-11, 190, jr.; RB David Johnson, 5-9, 200, jr.; G Mpmi Masimini, 6-5, 310, sr.; DB Alton Perkins, 6-1, 185, so.; WR Elijah Thurmon, 6-4, 200, sr.; QB Bobby Townsend, 6-6, 220, jr.; WR Marlon Ward, 6-2, 180, sr.; OT Levar Young, 6-5, 280, sr.

Strengths: The offensive line, led by Young, is a major asset. With a seasoned line to block for Johnson and Hutchinson, look for Howard to run a lot more than it did during the Ted White years.

Weaknesses: The defense suffered numerous losses, and it's debatable whether the Bison can fill the holes adequately. Jobs are available for pass rushers to replace Marque Douglas and Roy Sampson. The secondary lost three starters, and the kicking game needs to be upgraded.

Outlook: The Bison are capable of pulling off a few surprises if redshirt QB Donald Clark develops quickly, but that's expecting a bit much from a newcomer. What's more likely is that Howard will suffer some ups and downs in trying to stay above the .500 mark.

Last playoff appearance: 1993

7 NORFOLK STATE

Nickname: Spartans. **Site:** Norfolk, Va.

Coach: Mo Forte (1st year; 27-36-1 overall, 6 years)

1998 record: 2-9; Mid-Eastern: 2-6 (7th)

Top Players: LB Matthew Armstrong, 5-10, 210, jr.; NT Travoris Carnes, 6-0, 320, jr.; CB Quincy Clark, 5-11, 190, sr.; TE Duane Green, 6-4, 160, jr.; CB Jamel Hampton, 5-11, 185, so.; DT Aaron Johnson, 6-2, 300, jr.; OT LaShaun Mack, 6-3, 290, jr.; WR Delvin Peeks, 5-11, 180, sr.; RB Angelo Todd, 5-9, 200, sr.

Strengths: Optimism abounds now that former NFL assistant Mo Forte is the new coach. That will go a long way in helping the Spartans get a new lease on life in the conference. The ground game is sound with Todd (1,363 yards, 19 TDs), who led the league in rushing despite playing most of last season with a broken arm. When Todd isn't rambling up the middle or darting off tackle, look for Peeks to cause some damage as one of the Mid-Eastern's top receivers.

Weaknesses: A porous defense (league-high 44.9 points a game yielded in 1998) may not improve significantly enough to make a difference. A big plus is the return of Carnes, who missed most of the '98 season because of an injury.

Outlook: Norfolk is re-energized with Forte on board. But it's unreasonable to expect the Spartans to zoom to the top of the league just yet. This is a rebuilding year, and Norfolk fans are hoping the best is yet to come.

Last playoff appearance: none

8 MORGAN STATE

Nickname: Bears. **Site:** Baltimore

Coach: Stanley Morgan (1st year)

MID-EASTERN SCHEDULES

BETHUNE-COOKMAN

Sept. 4 Savannah State
 Sept. 11 Morgan State
 Sept. 18 Howard
 Sept. 25 Morris Brown
 Oct. 2 at Delaware State
 Oct. 9 Johnson C. Smith
 Oct. 16 South Carolina State
 Oct. 30 North Carolina A&T
 Nov. 6 Hampton
 Nov. 13 at Norfolk State
 Nov. 20 Florida A&M

DELAWARE STATE

Sept. 4 at Hampton
 Sept. 11 Elon
 Sept. 18 Norfolk State
 Sept. 25 at Bucknell
 Oct. 2 Bethune-Cookman
 Oct. 16 at Hofstra
 Oct. 23 Morgan State
 Oct. 30 at Florida A&M
 Nov. 6 at North Carolina A&T
 Nov. 13 at South Carolina St.
 Nov. 20 Howard

FLORIDA A&M

Sept. 4 at Miami, Fla.
 Sept. 11 Norfolk State
 Sept. 18 Tennessee State
 Sept. 25 South Carolina State
 Oct. 2 Morgan State
 Oct. 9 at Howard
 Oct. 23 at Hampton
 Oct. 30 Delaware State
 Nov. 6 Southern
 Nov. 13 at North Carolina A&T
 Nov. 20 Bethune-Cookman

HAMPTON

Sept. 4 Delaware State
 Sept. 11 Howard
 Sept. 18 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Sept. 25 Grambling State
 Oct. 2 Southern
 Oct. 9 at North Carolina A&T
 Oct. 16 at Norfolk State
 Oct. 23 Florida A&M
 Oct. 30 South Carolina State
 Nov. 6 at Bethune-Cookman
 Nov. 20 Morgan State

HOWARD

Sept. 4 at Jackson State
 Sept. 11 Hampton
 Sept. 18 Bethune-Cookman
 Sept. 25 Texas Southern
 Oct. 9 Florida A&M
 Oct. 16 Towson State
 Oct. 23 at North Carolina A&T
 Oct. 30 at Norfolk State

Nov. 6 South Carolina State
 Nov. 13 at Morgan State
 Nov. 20 at Delaware State

MORGAN STATE

Sept. 4 at Bucknell
 Sept. 11 at Bethune-Cookman
 Sept. 18 South Carolina State
 Sept. 25 at Rhode Island
 Oct. 2 at Florida A&M
 Oct. 9 Towson
 Oct. 16 North Carolina A&T
 Oct. 23 at Delaware State
 Nov. 6 at Norfolk State
 Nov. 13 Howard
 Nov. 20 at Hampton

NORFOLK STATE

Sept. 4 Virginia State
 Sept. 11 at Florida A&M
 Sept. 18 at Delaware State
 Oct. 2 North Carolina A&T
 Oct. 9 at South Carolina St.
 Oct. 16 Hampton
 Oct. 23 at Virginia Union
 Oct. 30 Howard
 Nov. 6 Morgan State
 Nov. 13 Bethune-Cookman
 Nov. 20 at Texas Southern

NORTH CAROLINA A&T

Sept. 5 North Carolina Central
 Sept. 11 at Winston-Salem St.
 Sept. 25 at Elon
 Oct. 2 at Norfolk State
 Oct. 9 Hampton
 Oct. 16 at Morgan State
 Oct. 23 Howard
 Oct. 30 at Bethune-Cookman
 Nov. 6 Delaware State
 Nov. 13 Florida A&M
 Nov. 20 South Carolina State

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

Sept. 4 Charleston Southern
 Sept. 11 Benedict College
 Sept. 18 at Morgan State
 Sept. 25 at Florida A&M
 Oct. 2 at Citadel
 Oct. 9 Norfolk State
 Oct. 16 at Bethune-Cookman
 Oct. 30 at Hampton
 Nov. 6 at Howard
 Nov. 13 Delaware State
 Nov. 20 North Carolina A&T

It is practically impossible for Florida A&M's Jacquay Nunnally to go unnoticed during a game. As the Rattlers' premier wide receiver, Nunnally has managed to torture secondaries on a regular basis.

His first breakout game came as a freshman when Florida A&M visited North Carolina A&T. Nunnally conducted a catching clinic, with 13 receptions for 284 yards and two scores—and he hasn't slowed. For his two-year career, Nunnally has 183 catches for 2,766 yards and 23 TDs. He has had 12 games

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jacquay Nunnally, Florida A&M



with 100 or more receiving yards.

Defenses routinely gear their coverages to try to neutralize Nunnally. "Getting a lot of attention is nothing new for me," he says. "It's just a process of continuing to make adjustments and finding new ways to run my routes so I can get open. It's really all about mental preparation."

Nunnally isn't exceptionally fast (4.5 in the 40). But he runs precise routes and is adept at breaking tackles. South Carolina State coach Willie Jeffries has seen enough of the A&M receiver. "He has great hands," Jeffries says. "But what makes him especially dangerous is what he does after he makes the catch."—Craig T. Greenlee

1998 record: 1-10; Mid-Eastern: 1-6 (8th)
Top Players: S Melvin Coleman, 5-11, 220, jr.; G Claron Etherly, 6-3, 275, sr.; LB Warner Herndon, 6-3, 210, sr.; WR Marc Lester, 6-4, 195, so.; QB Willie McGirt, 6-3, 210, sr.; DE/LB Carlos Mitchell, 6-1, 255, jr.; DE Kirk Mitchell, 6-1, 260, jr.; DT Larry Tucker, 6-0, 275, sr.; K Cody Vasquez, 5-11, 190, jr.

Strengths: Both lines are skilled and experienced. That's good news for Culpepper (4.7 yards a carry), who played in only two games last year before an injury sidelined him for the season. McGirt is primed to have a good year, as is Lester. Herndon (61 tackles, five sacks last year) has established himself as one of the league's elite.

Weaknesses: The Bears will be affected by coach Stump Mitchell's departure to become running backs coach for the Seattle Seahawks. A new staff will have little time to put in a new system. The recruiting suffered with no head coach in place. The secondary was weak last year, needs immediate help from newcomers. The offensive line lost two starters.

Outlook: If Morgan's players can adjust to a new coach quickly, there's a chance the Bears could exceed last year's 1-10 record. Given that it takes time for a team to make that kind of adjustment, look for Morgan to face some difficult times this fall. **Last playoff appearance:** none

9 DELAWARE STATE

Nickname: Hornets. **Site:** Dover

Coach: John McKenzie (3-19, 2 years)

1998 record: 0-11; Mid-Eastern: 0-8 (9th)

Top Players: LB Zack Harden, 6-1, 225, jr.; WR Albert Horsey, 6-0, 185, jr.; LB David Hughes, 6-2, 225, jr.; OT Lamar Jenkins, 6-5, 300, sr.; DB Dante Jones, 6-2, 190, jr.; HB Grayland King, 5-10, 205, sr.; QB Rahsaan Matthews, 6-4, 200, jr.; TE Darnerian McCarths, 6-4, 210, jr.; WR Tommie Mims, 6-2, 190, jr.; DB JoShaun Smith, 5-11, 180, sr.

Strengths: With nine starters returning on offense, Delaware State shouldn't have problems scoring points. Matthews (2,611 yards, 15 TDs) figures to be much improved after a year of seasoning.

Weaknesses: Rebuilding a defense, which gave up 43.8 points a game last year, is a major priority. That's why Damon Frenchers, formerly of North Carolina Central, was hired as the defensive coordinator. Frenchers may have to start his reclamation project from ground zero. The Hornets are thin on the line, and the secondary is young and untested.

Outlook: After suffering through an 0-11 season, Delaware State realizes things can't get worse.

Whether the Hornets can break the winless cycle remains to be seen.

Last playoff appearance: none

OHIO VALLEY

1 TENNESSEE STATE

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Nashville

Coach: L.C. Cole (17-17, 3 years)

1998 record: 9-3 (lost to Appalachian State in first round of I-AA playoffs); Ohio Valley: 6-1

Top Players: G Bennie Anderson, 6-5, 305, sr.; WR Avion Black, 6-0, 180, jr.; DE Lamar Carter, 6-3, 215, sr.; DB Ligarious Jennings, 5-9, 195, sr.; P Ashley Johnson, 6-0, 215, jr.; OT Antoine McNutt, 6-4, 325, sr.; QB Leon Murray, 6-3, 205, sr.; LB Brent Sterling, 6-0, 230, sr.; WR Corey Sullivan, 6-3, 180, sr.; OT Michael Thompson, 6-6, 295, sr.

Strengths: The offense is explosive and experienced. All but two starters are back from a record-setting team. Tennessee State led the conference in all but one offensive category, and the Tigers were second in that one (rushing yards a game). Tennessee State set several

conference and school records last season. The Tigers' offense features monstrous tackles McNutt and Anderson and quarterback Murray, who passed for more than 3,000 yards last season.

Weaknesses: The Tigers again will worry about stopping the run. Tennessee State has been porous on defense the last three years. Last season, the team allowed 44 points in the Ohio Valley championship game but managed to eke out a 46-44 win due to its great offense.

Outlook: Tennessee State is the league favorite. But the Tigers won't have the benefit of sneaking up on people, as they did last year.

Last playoff appearance: 1998

2 EASTERN ILLINOIS

Nickname: Panthers. **Site:** Charleston

Coach: Bob Spoo (74-61-1, 12 years)

1998 record: 6-5; Ohio Valley: 4-3 (tie 3rd)

Top Players: TB Wayne Brown, 5-10, 189, so.; QB Anthony Bulch, 6-1, 213, sr.; SS Jay Grodecki, 6-1, 189, sr.; LB Brian Jones, 5-11, 218, jr.; DT Andy Lee, 6-2, 231, jr.; TB Jabarey McDavid, 5-8, 169, jr.; CB Steffan Nicholson, 6-1, 182, sr.; DE Ryan Pace, 6-4, 239, sr.; WR Phil Taylor, 6-0, 173, sr.; TE Seth Willingham, 6-4, 269, jr.

Strengths: The Panthers are loaded on offense, returning all but three senior starters. The offensive line, led by Steve Marinowski and Willingham, is the hub of the team.

Weaknesses: The Panthers need an every-down running back after losing Justin Lynch to graduation. Lynch was one of two running backs voted to the first-team all-conference squad last year. Shaun Grace, a redshirt freshman, will compete for the starting spot at tailback.

Outlook: Eastern Illinois will contend for the league title with a solid, if not spectacular, offense. If the defense can hold opponents to 20 points or fewer a game, Eastern could hang a championship banner in Charleston this fall.

Last playoff appearance: 1996

3 EASTERN KENTUCKY

Nickname: Colonels. **Site:** Richmond

Coach: Roy Kidd (286-108-8, 35 years)

1998 record: 6-5; Ohio Valley: 4-3 (tie 3rd)

Top Players: SS Scooter Asel, 6-0, 205, jr.; WR Alexander Bannister, 6-5, 194, jr.; QB Waylon Chapman, 6-3, 224, jr.; QB Chad Collins, 6-1, 200, jr.; TB Corey Crume, 6-0, 222, jr.; LB Brad Folke, 6-0, 235, sr.; FS Shawn Gallant, 6-1, 200, sr.; G Josh Hunter, 6-2, 290, sr.; TB Derick Logan, 6-0, 220, sr.; DT Jason Muchow, 6-0, 285, sr.

Strengths: The biggest strength is coach Roy Kidd. Kidd, one of the winningest coaches in Division I-AA history, suffered what for him was a miserable season in 1998. The Colonels were 6-5 and out of the running for the conference title by the end of October. The last time Kidd had such a poor record was in 1996. The Colonels turned things around in 1997, going 7-0 in the conference and making the playoffs.

Weaknesses: Special teams killed the Colonels last year. The finished next to last in punt returns in the conference and were last in kick returns. The lack of productivity in those areas forced the Colonels to often start deep in their territory.

Outlook: Kidd, who is in his fourth decade at Eastern Kentucky, won't stand for another bad season. A stronger defense could be the key to a step back into the conference elite.

Last playoff appearance: 1997

4 MURRAY STATE

Nickname: Racers. **Site:** Murray, Ky.

Coach: Denver Johnson (14-8, 2 years)

1998 record: 7-4; Ohio Valley: 5-2 (2nd)

Top Players: RB Justin Bivins, 5-9, 190, sr.; QB Justin Fuente, 6-2, 210, sr.; FS Beau Guest, 6-1, 190, jr.; FB Tim Linville, 6-0, 240, jr.; K Greg Miller, 6-0, 180, jr.; WR

Connie Moore, 5-10, 180, sr.; WR Terrence Tillman, 5-9, 170, jr.; C Jason Williams, 6-3, 270, sr.; DT Steve Williams, 6-3, 270, sr.

Strengths: The Racers return four of the five offensive linemen who led them to second place in the conference last year. That unit is led by Jason Williams, who was second-team all-conference last season. Tackle Darrin LeFever, along with guards Scott Pitt and Ron Brown, are the other returning linemen.

Weaknesses: The team was ravaged by graduation on defense, losing eight starters, and will be hard-pressed to stop opponents as effectively as it did last season. The only returning defensive starters are Guest, line-backer Gary Humphrey, and cornerback Sebastian Jackson.

Outlook: The Racers should be explosive on offense. With Fuente, Linville and Bivins back, they have plenty of players with skill. Throw in four returning starters on the offensive line, and the team is sure to score. It's whether their depleted defensive corps can slow anyone that will determine whether Murray State will be good enough to challenge for the league title. Miller was first-team all-conference last year and is a major weapon.

Last playoff appearance: 1996

5 WESTERN KENTUCKY

Nickname: Hilltoppers. **Site:** Bowling Green

Coach: Jack Harbaugh (54-54, 10 years; 79-81-3 overall, 15 years)

1998 record: 7-4 (independent status)

Top Players: OL Ray Arnold, 6-0, 263, sr.; C Patrick Goodman, 6-3, 280, sr.; CB Joseph Jefferson, 6-0, 185, so.; P/SS Alan Ogletree, 6-1, 201, jr.; QB Donte Pimpton, 6-2, 180, jr.; K Jeff Poisel, 6-1, 215, sr.; LB Shane Ricketts, 6-1, 240, sr.; FB Rod Smart, 5-11, 185, sr.; LB Melvin Wisham, 6-2, 225, sr.; DB Ben Wittman, 6-2, 255, sr.

Strengths: There aren't many strengths for Western, which was 7-4 last year and ranked 19th in the nation. One of the best pieces will be the offensive line, where Arnold and Goodman will join former tight end Cory Himes in giving the Hilltoppers some experience. Those three are among seven returning starters. Goodman was an All-American pick last year.

Weaknesses: The defense will be a liability, with only three starters returning. To make matters worse, there isn't one particular part of the defense that has experience; the returning starters are a lineman, a linebacker and a safety. That means loads of inexperience in each of those areas.

Outlook: Western hasn't been hammered like this by graduation in more than a decade. Sixteen players were lost, including record-setting Willie Taggart, the all-time leading rusher among quarterbacks in I-AA. Rebuilding is the word in Bowling Green this season.

Last playoff appearance: 1997

6 TENNESSEE TECH

Nickname: Golden Eagles. **Site:** Cookeville

Coach: Mike Hennigan (15-18, 3 years)

1998 record: 4-7; Ohio Valley: 2-5 (tie 6th)

Top Players: K David Collett, 6-1, 180, so.; P Andy Dorsey, 5-11, 184, jr.; LB Chad Evitts, 6-2, 210, sr.; G Wes Gallagher, 6-2, 265, sr.; WR Walter Hill, 6-3, 180, sr.; LB Jeff Hunicutt, 5-11, 218, sr.; TB Nick Solomon, 5-7, 195, so.; SS Joshua Symonette, 5-10, 190, sr.; DE Jerry Turner, 6-3, 230, sr.; DE Brannon Vaughn, 6-1, 230, sr.

Strengths: The strength of this team will be exactly what it has been the last few years: Defense. Vaughn was the league's 1998 defensive player of the year. He and Symonette are returning first-team all-conference players. Other defensive returnees include Turner and Evitts, who were second-team all-conference picks last season.

Weaknesses: The team will be hard-pressed to score and keep the defense off the field. Tech was last in passing and rushing offense last year, and last in total offense. Things don't look a whole lot better this year.

Ohio Valley

BY ANTHONY COLEMAN, NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Corey Sullivan, Tennessee State	6-3	185	Sr.
WR	Walter Hill, Southeast Missouri St.	5-11	185	Sr.
TE	Seth Willingham, Eastern Illinois	6-4	257	Sr.
T	Bennie Anderson, Tennessee State	6-5	305	Sr.
T	Wes Gallagher, Tennessee Tech	6-2	265	Sr.
G	Josh Hunter, Eastern Kentucky	6-2	280	Jr.
G	Mark Williams, Tennessee Tech	6-1	265	Sr.
C	Patrick Goodman, W. Kentucky	6-2	295	Sr.
QB	Leon Murray, Tennessee State	6-3	205	Sr.
RB	Justin Bivens, Murray State	5-9	190	Sr.
RB	Donell Brantley, Tennessee State	5-11	220	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	Phillip Wasson, Murray State	6-3	260	Sr.
E	Jerry Turner, Tennessee Tech	6-3	232	Sr.
T	Jason Muchow, Eastern Kentucky	6-0	303	Sr.
T	Steve Williams, Murray State	6-4	285	Sr.
LB	Branon Vaughn, Tennessee Tech	6-1	226	Sr.
LB	Lamar Carter, Tennessee State	6-3	215	Jr.
LB	Brent Sterling, Tennessee State	6-0	235	Sr.
CB	Steffan Nicholson, Eastern Illinois	6-0	182	Sr.
CB	Joshua Symonette, Tennessee Tech	5-10	190	Sr.
S	Shawn Gallant, Eastern Kentucky	6-0	200	Sr.
S	Beau Guest, Murray State	6-2	195	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Greg Miller, Murray State	6-1	172	Jr.
P	Andy Dorsey, Tennessee Tech	5-11	184	Jr.
KR	Avion Black, Tennessee State	6-0	180	Jr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Julius Hull, WR, Tenn. St.
Top defensive newcomer: J.J. Johnson, CB, E. Ky.
Best offensive backfield: Eastern Kentucky
Best wide receivers: Tennessee State
Best offensive line: Tennessee State
Best defensive line: Murray State
Best linebackers: Eastern Kentucky
Best secondary: Tennessee Tech
Best special teams: Tennessee State
Hardest hitter: Branon Vaughn, LB, Tennessee Tech
Best backup QB: Chris Perkins, Tennessee State
Best pro prospect: Leon Murray, QB, Tennessee St.
Best game-day atmosphere: Tennessee State

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Leon Murray, QB, Tennessee State
Defense: Branon Vaughn, LB, Tennessee Tech

Outlook: Lacking an offense that is going to generate many points, the team likely will waste what looks to be another powerful defense. Last year's defensive unit led the league in all but one category. The Golden Eagles need to score at least 17 points a game if they expect to finish in the top half of the league.
Last playoff appearance: none

7 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE

Nickname: Indians. **Site:** Cape Girardeau
Coach: John Mumford (37-62, 9 years)
1998 record: 3-8; Ohio Valley: 2-5 (tie 6th)
Top Players: FB Broderick Benson, 5-10, 215, sr.; LB David Bowling, 6-0, 210, sr.; QB Bobby Brune, 6-4, 205, so.; WR Corey Chester, 5-11, 175, jr.; DB Brian Hinton, 5-10, 180, sr.; C Chris Kiefer, 6-3, 270, sr.; RB K.D. Koleosho, 5-10, 195, sr.; DB Isaac Powell, 6-1, 180, jr.; DB John Smith, 6-1, 190, sr.; WR Leslie Weaver, 5-10, 190, jr.
Strengths: The strength of the team is the offensive backfield. Brune, a redshirt freshman last year, will be the starting quarterback. He is backed up by strong-armed senior Kevin Seto. The team's top fullback (Benson) and tailback (Koleosho) also return.
Weaknesses: The offensive line needs to be rebuilt. The Indians lost three linemen and tight end Mitch Fryer. The only returning players with starting experience are junior tackle Ian Walters and junior center Chris Kiefer.
Outlook: The offense is extremely young. The quarterback is a sophomore, and the offensive line is being rebuilt. While the defense returns six starters, Southeast Missouri is not strong enough to be a title contender.
Last playoff appearance: none

8 TENNESSEE-MARTIN

Nickname: Skyhawks. **Site:** Martin
Coach: Jim Marshall (2-21, 2 years; 20-68 overall, 6 years)
1998 record: 1-10; 0-7 Ohio Valley (8th)
Top Players: FB Marcus Abel, 5-9, 220, so.; DB Johnathan Brooks, 6-1, 210, jr.; OL Charlie Goodyear, 6-2, 265, jr.; WR Deundre Greer, 5-10, 175, jr.; RB Jermi Hampton, 5-9, 200, jr.; RB Adam Joyner, 5-10, 190, jr.; DB J.D. McWilliams, 5-9, 170, jr.; LB Keythric Merriweather, 6-1, 240, sr.; OL Shane Oldham, 6-4, 220, so.; WR Rory Redmond, 6-1, 170, sr.
Strengths: Coach Jim Marshall returns 33 of his top 44 players from last season. The Skyhawks were more competitive offensively last year than they had been in recent years. Redmond, one of the league's better receivers, is the Skyhawks' primary offensive weapon.
Weaknesses: The Skyhawks need to shore up their defense if they expect to win a conference game. Last year they were destroyed 76-0 by Tennessee State.
Outlook: Although the offense should score more this season, the Skyhawks aren't going to win any games if they give up more than 35 points a game.
Last playoff appearance: none

OHIO VALLEY SCHEDULES

EASTERN ILLINOIS

Sept. 2 at Central Michigan
 Sept. 11 at Hawaii
 Sept. 18 Southern Illinois
 Sept. 25 Tennessee-Martin
 Oct. 2 at Central Florida
 Oct. 9 at Tennessee State
 Oct. 16 at Murray State
 Oct. 23 Tennessee Tech
 Oct. 30 Western Kentucky
 Nov. 6 at SE Missouri State
 Nov. 13 Illinois State
 Nov. 20 at Eastern Kentucky

TENNESSEE-MARTIN

Sept. 2 Western Kentucky
 Sept. 11 Lambuth
 Sept. 18 Samford
 Sept. 25 at Eastern Illinois
 Oct. 2 Tennessee Tech
 Oct. 9 at Murray State
 Oct. 16 Tennessee State
 Oct. 23 at Eastern Kentucky
 Oct. 30 SE Missouri State
 Nov. 6 at Mid. Tennessee St.
 Nov. 13 SW Missouri State

TENNESSEE STATE

Sept. 4 Alabama State
 Sept. 11 at Jackson State
 Sept. 18 Florida A&M (at Atlanta)
 Oct. 2 at Alabama A&M
 Oct. 9 Eastern Illinois
 Oct. 16 at Tennessee-Martin
 Oct. 23 at Western Kentucky
 Oct. 30 Eastern Kentucky
 Nov. 6 Tennessee Tech
 Nov. 13 Murray State
 Nov. 20 at SE Missouri State

EASTERN KENTUCKY

Sept. 2 Kentucky State
 Sept. 11 at Appalachian State
 Sept. 18 Indiana State
 Sept. 25 at Samford
 Oct. 2 at SE Missouri State
 Oct. 9 Western Kentucky
 Oct. 23 Tennessee-Martin
 Oct. 30 at Tennessee State
 Nov. 6 at Murray State
 Nov. 13 at Tennessee Tech
 Nov. 20 Eastern Illinois

TENNESSEE TECH

Sept. 2 Wofford
 Sept. 11 at Bowling Green
 Sept. 18 Liberty
 Oct. 2 at Tennessee-Martin
 Oct. 9 at SE Missouri State
 Oct. 16 Western Kentucky
 Oct. 23 at Eastern Illinois
 Oct. 30 Murray State
 Nov. 6 at Tennessee State
 Nov. 13 Eastern Kentucky
 Nov. 20 at Samford

MURRAY STATE

Sept. 4 at Wisconsin
 Sept. 11 at Southern Illinois
 Sept. 18 SE Missouri State
 Oct. 2 at Western Kentucky
 Oct. 9 Tennessee-Martin
 Oct. 16 Eastern Illinois
 Oct. 23 Samford
 Oct. 30 at Tennessee Tech
 Nov. 6 Eastern Kentucky
 Nov. 13 at Tennessee State
 Nov. 20 Kentucky Wesleyan

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Sept. 2 at Tennessee-Martin
 Sept. 11 Cumberland
 Sept. 18 South Florida
 Sept. 25 SE Missouri State
 Oct. 2 Murray State
 Oct. 9 at Eastern Kentucky
 Oct. 16 at Tennessee Tech
 Oct. 23 Tennessee State
 Oct. 30 at Eastern Illinois
 Nov. 13 at Indiana State
 Nov. 20 at Southern Illinois

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE

Sept. 2 Southern Illinois
 Sept. 11 at Illinois State
 Sept. 18 at Murray State
 Sept. 25 at Western Kentucky
 Oct. 2 Eastern Kentucky
 Oct. 9 Tennessee Tech
 Oct. 16 at Indiana State
 Oct. 23 SW Missouri State
 Oct. 30 at Tennessee-Martin
 Nov. 6 Eastern Illinois
 Nov. 20 Tennessee State

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Leon Murray, Tennessee State



3,002 yards last season, the second-best total in school history. He broke the Ohio Valley Conference record by nearly 300 yards.

Tennessee State coach L.C. Cole was an assistant at Eastern Michigan when Detroit Lions quarterback Charlie Batch played there. "I'd say Leon is as good as Charlie was at the same stage in his career," Cole says.

"I really think he is just scratching the surface of what he can do," says Johnnie Cole, Tennessee State's offensive coordinator. Murray isn't thinking past this season. "We won the Ohio Valley title last year, and this year our goals are going to be higher," he says. —Anthony Coleman

Patriot

BY GARY BLOCKUS, ALLENTOWN (PA.) MORNING CALL
DEFENSE

All-Conference

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Gerry McDermott, Fordham	6-3	204	Sr.
WR	Kody Fedorchak, Lehigh	6-0	184	Sr.
TE	Jimmy Walls, Fordham	6-3	217	Sr.
T	Luke Carlaw, Bucknell	6-4	260	Sr.
T	Paul Clasby, Colgate	6-2	266	Sr.
G	Steve Estes, Colgate	6-5	266	Sr.
G	Patrick Quay, Holy Cross	6-2	260	Jr.
C	Kevin Bolis, Colgate	6-2	240	Sr.
QB	Phil Stambaugh, Lehigh	6-4	215	Sr.
RB	Ronald Jean, Lehigh	5-6	177	Sr.
RB	Jason Corle, Towson	5-11	198	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	David Puloka, Holy Cross	6-3	240	Jr.
E	Antraveous Slaton, Lehigh	6-2	245	Jr.
T	Neal Gomez, Colgate	6-1	245	Sr.
T	Eric Green, Bucknell	6-1	240	Sr.
LB	Ian Eason, Lehigh	6-1	210	Sr.
LB	Ryan Hiles, Lafayette	6-2	230	Sr.
LB	Joe Saunders, Holy Cross	5-10	220	Sr.
CB	Jabari Garrett, Towson	5-10	175	Jr.
CB	Elijah Beamon, Lafayette	6-2	175	Jr.
S	Angel Colon, Lafayette	5-9	160	Sr.
S	Tom Bestpitch, Holy Cross	6-0	180	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Jaron Taaf, Lehigh	5-10	180	Jr.
P	Jay Heibel, Lehigh	6-2	190	So.
KR	Robert Davis, Fordham	5-11	170	Sr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Ed Weiss, TB, Colgate
Top defensive newcomer: Maurice Briscoe, E, Fordham
Best offensive backfield: Colgate
Best wide receivers: Lehigh
Best offensive line: Colgate
Best defensive line: Bucknell
Best linebackers: Lehigh
Best secondary: Lafayette
Best special teams: Bucknell
Hardest hitter: Ian Eason, LB, Lehigh
Best backup QB: Lucas Phillips, Bucknell
Best pro prospect: Phil Stambaugh, QB, Lehigh
Best game-day atmosphere: Lehigh

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Phil Stambaugh, QB, Lehigh
Defense: Ian Eason, LB, Lehigh

PATRIOT

1 LEHIGH

Nickname: Mountain Hawks. **Site:** Bethlehem, Pa.
Coach: Kevin Higgins (34-22-1, 5 seasons)
1998 record: 12-1; **Patriot:** 6-0 (1st)
Top Players: LB Bryant Appling, 6-0, 210, jr.; LB Ian Eason, 6-1, 210, sr.; WR Kody Fedorchak, 6-0, 184, sr.; P Jay Heibel, 6-2, 190, so.; RB Ronald Jean, 5-6, 177, sr.; DB Kevin Joseph, 5-10, 164, sr.; DE Dave Peteti, 6-2, 240, jr.; DE Troy Slaton, 6-2, 220, jr.; FB Brett Snyder, 6-1, 217, sr.; QB Phil Stambaugh, 6-4, 215, sr.
Strengths: Confidence. The team tasted playoff success with a win at Richmond in 1998, and all-Patriot selection Stambaugh (league-record 66.3 completion percentage) returns to direct the Patriot's most prolific passing offense. Ron Jean returns after a 1,000-yard rushing season. The defensive front is solid, and all of the linebackers return.
Weaknesses: There's a void in the secondary, where three of the four starters graduated. Making up for the loss of go-to wide receiver Deron Braswell won't be easy.
Outlook: Stambaugh, Jean and Brett Snyder form the best backfield in the league. That, plus depth at linebacker, led by Eason, should provide another opportunity for a league title, although Lehigh never has won it back-to-back.
Last playoff appearance: 1998

2 COLGATE

Nickname: Red Raiders. **Site:** Hamilton, N.Y.
Coach: Dick Biddle (21-14, 3 years)
1998 record: 8-4; **Patriot:** 5-1 (2nd)
Top Players: C Kevin Bolis, 6-2, 248, sr.; OT Paul Clasby, 6-2, 262, sr.; LB John Costantino, 6-2, 227, jr.; OT Steve Estes, 6-5, 285, sr.; DT Neal Gomez, 6-1, 245, sr.; DE Barry HoAire, 6-5, 228, jr.; P Erich Kutschke, 5-11, 206, sr.; FB Tim Lavoie, 5-10, 217, so.; SS Tom McCarroll, 5-11, 190, sr.; QB Ryan Vena, 6-0, 195, sr.
Strengths: Vena looks to take the Red Raiders to their third straight playoff appearance. His career numbers (5,510 passing yards, 1,467 rushing yards) reflect a strong passing attack that complements four returning offensive linemen and a backfield that produced 246.1 rushing yards a game last year.
Weaknesses: Colgate was hit hard by the graduation of its top two receivers (including all-time leader Corey Hill) and tight end. The Red Raiders need to rebuild at linebacker and kicker.
Outlook: Vena makes Colgate a contender, and the addition of running back Ed Weiss (1,069 rushing yards in 1997) after a year's absence means the backfield is even stronger. The return of Gomez and the team's top two tacklers, McCarroll and John Costantino, makes the defense sound. It all adds up to put Colgate back into the playoff picture.
Last playoff appearance: 1998

3 BUCKNELL

Nickname: Bison. **Site:** Lewisburg, Pa.
Coach: Tom Gadd (29-15, 4 years)
1998 record: 6-5; **Patriot:** 3-3 (tie 3rd)

PATRIOT SCHEDULES

BUCKNELL
 Sept. 4 Morgan State
 Sept. 11 at Colgate
 Sept. 18 Towson
 Sept. 25 Delaware State
 Oct. 2 at Pennsylvania
 Oct. 9 at Columbia
 Oct. 16 Duquesne
 Oct. 23 at Lafayette
 Nov. 6 Holy Cross
 Nov. 13 Lehigh
 Nov. 20 at Fordham

COLGATE
 Sept. 4 Maine
 Sept. 11 Bucknell
 Sept. 18 at Fordham
 Sept. 25 at Dartmouth
 Oct. 2 at Harvard
 Oct. 9 at Lafayette
 Oct. 16 Cornell
 Oct. 23 at St. Mary's (Calif.)
 Nov. 6 Lehigh
 Nov. 13 Towson
 Nov. 20 at Holy Cross

FORDHAM
 Sept. 11 Lehigh
 Sept. 18 Colgate
 Sept. 25 at Cornell
 Oct. 2 at Princeton
 Oct. 9 at Pennsylvania
 Oct. 16 Harvard
 Oct. 23 at Towson
 Oct. 30 Brown
 Nov. 6 at Lafayette
 Nov. 13 Holy Cross
 Nov. 20 Bucknell

HOLY CROSS
 Sept. 11 Georgetown
 Sept. 18 Lafayette
 Sept. 25 Harvard
 Oct. 2 at Towson
 Oct. 9 Yale

Oct. 16 Fairfield
 Oct. 23 at Lehigh
 Oct. 30 at St. Mary's (Calif.)
 Nov. 6 at Bucknell
 Nov. 13 at Fordham
 Nov. 20 Colgate

LAFAYETTE
 Sept. 11 at Towson
 Sept. 18 at Holy Cross
 Sept. 25 at Brown
 Oct. 2 Dartmouth
 Oct. 9 Colgate
 Oct. 16 at Princeton
 Oct. 23 Bucknell
 Oct. 30 Marist
 Nov. 6 Fordham
 Nov. 13 Duquesne
 Nov. 20 at Lehigh

LEHIGH
 Sept. 11 at Fordham
 Sept. 18 Monmouth
 Sept. 25 at Princeton
 Oct. 2 Columbia
 Oct. 9 at Dartmouth
 Oct. 16 at Delaware
 Oct. 23 Holy Cross
 Oct. 30 Towson
 Nov. 6 at Colgate
 Nov. 13 at Bucknell
 Nov. 20 Lafayette

TOWSON
 Sept. 4 Monmouth
 Sept. 11 Lafayette
 Sept. 18 at Bucknell
 Sept. 25 at Columbia
 Oct. 2 Holy Cross
 Oct. 9 at Morgan State
 Oct. 16 at Howard
 Oct. 23 Fordham
 Oct. 30 at Lehigh
 Nov. 6 Dayton
 Nov. 13 at Colgate

Top Players: OT Luke Carlaw, 6-4, 270, sr.; LB Vince Ficca, 5-10, 210, jr.; NG Eric Green, 6-2, 255, sr.; TE Corey Hurley, 6-4, 235, sr.; P Brian Kramer, 5-11, 181, sr.; DB Justin Lustig, 5-8, 170, sr.; QB Don McDowell, 6-2, 201, sr.; RB/PR Dan Palko, 5-8, 180, sr.; DE John Papadakis, 6-1, 245, sr.; LB Shawn Redd, 5-10, 205, sr.
Strengths: Eight of the team's top tacklers return from a unit that posted a league-high 33 sacks. Fifth-year coach Tom Gadd has established a winning tradition: 1998's graduates amassed a school-record 29 victories in four years.
Weaknesses: The Bison need better performances from their quarterbacks (nine TDs, 13 interceptions last season) and running backs. The team is rebuilding at wide receiver.

Last year Stambaugh led Lehigh to its first unbeaten regular season (11-0) since 1950 and its first postseason appearance since 1980. The Engineers lost to eventual NCAA 1-AA champion Massachusetts in the second round of the playoffs. Stambaugh's 62.1 career completion percentage is the best in Patriot League history. He has completed 582 of 937 passes for 6,674 yards, 51 touchdowns and 30 interceptions.

Stambaugh was the Patriot League's 1998 player of the year. Twice last season, against Columbia and in a playoff victory over Richmond, he led drives that resulted in game-winning field goals.

—Gary Blockus

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Phil Stambaugh, Lehigh

Phil Stambaugh is living proof that it's not where you come from, but how good you are.

Coming out of a high school graduating class of 36, it's hard to get noticed by college recruiters. It makes it easier when you're the Pennsylvania Small School Quarterback of the Year, a two-time state place-winner in wrestling and a pitcher in baseball. The 6-4, 216-pound Stambaugh bypassed scholarships at other schools for a chance to play football and baseball at Lehigh.



LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Outlook: Bucknell will rely on defense in pursuit of a fifth straight winning season. The offense needs steadiness. If McDowell rises to the senior challenge, the team is capable of surprising Lehigh and Colgate.
Last playoff appearance: none

4 LAFAYETTE

Nickname: Leopards. **Site:** Easton, Pa.
Coach: Bill Russo (99-91-4, 18 years; 114-106-4 overall, 21 years)
1998 record: 3-8; **Patriot:** 3-3 (tie 3rd)
Top Players: CB Kenya Allen, 5-8, 160, so.; FS Angel Colon, 5-8, 160, sr.; LB John Fister, 6-0, 215, sr.; OL Jim Goff, 6-4, 275, sr.; LB Ryan Hiles, 6-3, 235, sr.; WR Joe Luke, 6-0, 190, sr.; TE Mike Palos, 6-3, 225, sr.; OL Matt Traynham, 6-4, 270, jr.; TB/SS Brian Tuma, 6-2, 210, sr.; WR Phil Yarbrough, 6-3, 185, jr.
Strengths: A superb defensive backfield may turn the tables on some juggernauts. Colon, Beamon and Allen, last year's Patriot rookie of the year, are solid. Hiles led the league in tackles last season.
Weaknesses: Quarterback is a question mark for the league's worst passing attack. Palos, a two-year starter, moved to tight end after playing baseball in the spring. Fullback Tom Williams transferred to Penn State.
Outlook: The administration nearly canceled Division 1 athletics at Lafayette and didn't resolve the issue until January, which hindered recruiting and hurt morale. But Bill Russo, the Patriot's dean of coaches, always has the Leopards playing their best in league games.
Last playoff appearance: none

5 FORDHAM

Nickname: Rams. **Site:** Bronx, N.Y.
Coach: Dave Clawson (1st year)
1998 record: 4-7; **Patriot:** 2-4 (5th)
Top Players: DT Joseph Amato, 6-3, 255, sr.; WR Robert Davis, 5-11, 170, sr.; RB Clifton Lawrence, 6-0, 190, sr.; WR Gerry McDermott, 6-3, 204, sr.; OL Mike O'Keefe, 6-3, 270, jr.; DB Lance Peck, 5-10, 175, jr.; SS Jon Piela, 5-9, 186, sr.; DB Ray Reddin, 5-8, 170, jr.; OL Jason Rossi, 6-3, 300, sr.; TE Jim Walls, 6-3, 217, sr.
Strengths: The Rams had the No. 2 passing attack in the league, averaging 242 yards a game; the 6-3 McDermott (868 yards, 13 TDs) is an inviting target.
Weaknesses: The team finished last in the league in total defense and scoring defense last season and needs to reverse those trends. The experience of nine returning starters should help.
Outlook: First-year coach Dave Clawson, a former offensive coordinator at Lehigh, returns to the league after serving as offensive coordinator at Villanova the past few years. The Rams will show improvement under Clawson, but nothing short of the resurrection of the Seven Blocks of Granite will return them to glory this year.
Last playoff appearance: none

6 TOWSON

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Towson, Md.
Coach: Gordy Combs (40-31, 7 years)
1998 record: 5-6; **Patriot:** 1-5 (tie 6th)
Top Players: DB/KR Dennis Cliggett, 5-11, 195, jr.; RB Jason Corle, 5-11, 204, sr.; WR Mike Deal, 5-11, 170, sr.; CB Jabari Garrett, 5-9, 180, sr.; DE Andrew Hollingsworth, 6-2, 220, jr.; LB Rusty McKinney, 6-1, 205, so.; WR Adam Overbey, 5-11, 188, jr.; LB Aaron Sakevich, 6-3, 228, jr.; C John Tierney, 6-2, 268, jr.; OT Brian Wronski, 6-6, 285, jr.
Strengths: Corle, the league leader in rushing, scoring and all-purpose yards last season, carries the Tigers' hopes in their third year as a Patriot member. Sakevich was the league's second-leading tackler, and Hollingsworth was the No. 2 sack man.
Weaknesses: Inexperience in the league still is a factor. The Tigers haven't found a way to deter pass-happy offenses. Despite Corle's efforts, the Tigers were fifth in the league in rushing last year.
Outlook: Gordy Combs redshirted 40 freshmen the year before joining the league and hopes the added maturity

translates to victories.
Last playoff appearance: none

7 HOLY CROSS

Nickname: Crusaders. **Site:** Worcester, Mass.
Coach: Dan Allen (7-26, 3 years; 42-60 overall, 9 years)
1998 record: 2-9; **Patriot:** 1-5 (tie 6th)
Top Players: RB John Aloisi, 6-0, 200, sr.; LB Ben Berger, 6-3, 235, sr.; DB Tom Bestpitch, 6-0, 180, sr.; DT Tavares Brewington, 6-3, 290, sr.; QB Ryan Collar, 6-3, 225, jr.; LB Brian Corales, 6-2, 230, jr.; DB Troy Larose, 6-1, 185, jr.; G David Lockey, 6-3, 265, sr.; DE David Puloka, 6-3, 255, jr.; OL Patrick Quay, 6-2, 270, jr.
Strengths: The Crusaders return two-time, all-league pick Bestpitch and all four starting linebackers from a 2-9 team that gave up 30 points just once. Twenty starters return.
Weaknesses: Offense, offense, offense. Holy Cross scored more than 20 points just twice last season. It had the league's worst offense and second-weakest passing game.
Outlook: Holy Cross again will depend on its defensive scheme to slow down the offensive fireworks of powers Colgate and Lehigh. Coach Dan Allen had success with that approach in his first three seasons, but the Crusaders need to find a way to win.
Last playoff appearance: none

SOUTHERN

1 GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Nickname: Eagles. **Site:** Statesboro
Coach: Paul Johnson (24-4, 2 years)
1998 record: 14-1 (lost to Massachusetts in 1-AA championship game); **Southern:** 8-0 (1st)
Top Players: DT Voncellies Allen, 6-0, 286, sr.; K Chris Chambers, 5-9, 177, sr.; WR Bennie Cunningham, 5-11, 199, sr.; QB Greg Hill, 5-11, 163 sr.; OT Rich McGrath, 6-2, 283, sr.; CB Earthwind Moreland, 5-10, 175, sr.; FB Adrian Peterson, 5-10, 207, so.; LB Josh Smithers, 6-0, 216, sr.; FS Arkee Thompson, 6-0, 179, so.; OG Mark Williams, 6-1, 312, sr.
Strengths: Quality and depth on both lines. The Eagles boast two of the league's best offensive linemen in McGrath and Williams, and Allen clearly is the league's best defensive lineman. Peterson is a powerful, tackle-breaking threat, and Hill frustrates defenses with his ball-handling and running ability.
Weaknesses: The linebackers corps includes new faces. The passing attack is merely average, though the Eagles rarely need it.
Outlook: On the heels of a 14-1 season, the Eagles should be even better. The only threats to a perfect regular season might be October trips to Appalachian State and East Tennessee State. Even with a stumble or two in the regular season, the Eagles will be hard for anyone to handle in the playoffs.
Last playoff appearance: 1998

2 APPALACHIAN STATE

Nickname: Mountaineers. **Site:** Boone, N.C.
Coach: Jerry Moore (79-40, 10 years; 106-88-2, 17 years)
1998 record: 10-3 (lost to Northwestern State in quarterfinals of 1-AA playoffs); **Southern:** 6-2 (2nd)
Top Players: LB Joe Best, 5-10, 237, jr.; DE Jimmy Freeman, 5-11, 226, jr.; WR Joey Gibson, 6-1, 185, sr.; FS Corey Hall, 6-4, 183, jr.; DE Rocky Hunt, 6-0, 261, sr.; QB Daniel Jeremiah, 6-1, 175, jr.; RB Terrence McCall, 6-0, 207, jr.; SS Chuck Payne, 5-8, 187, sr.; QB David Reeves, 6-0, 186, jr.; WR Darryl Skinner, 5-10, 178, jr.
Strengths: An aggressive and experienced defense, one capable of dominating opponents. Hunt, Hall and DT Jamie Lovren are ringleaders of a group that makes a habit of momentum-turning plays. Reeves might be the league's best passer, and Skinner is among its best receivers.
Weaknesses: The offensive line must be rebuilt.

Outlook: If Georgia Southern wasn't stocked so well, this would be the model team of the league. The Mountaineers again will be stingy in yielding drives and points. The offense won't be as good as it was last year, but the return of Reeves and Skinner makes it formidable enough for Appalachian State to earn another playoff berth.
Last playoff appearance: 1998

3 EAST TENNESSEE STATE

Nickname: Buccaneers. **Site:** Johnson City
Coach: Paul Hamilton (11-11, 2 years)
1998 record: 4-7; **Southern:** 3-5 (6th)
Top Players: C Jim Beverly, 6-4, 304, sr.; WR Lamar Cooper, 5-9, 185, sr.; LB Rahim El Amin, 6-2, 207, jr.; CB Keyandre Fenn, 5-6, 160, jr.; LB Derek Fudge, 6-0, 248, sr.; LB Kevin Peterson, 5-10, 235, sr.; LB Terrie Robbins, 5-10, 215, sr.; CB Denario Smalls, 5-8, 177, jr.; TB Brandon Walker, 5-10, 204, sr.; QB Todd Wells, 5-10, 198, jr.
Strengths: Twenty starters, including the powerful Walker and seasoned Wells, are back, most in the league. Cooper, when healthy, is among the league's most dangerous receivers. Peterson leads a strong, deep linebackers crew. Overall team speed is good.
Weaknesses: The offensive line was too inconsistent last year, and that made Wells less consistent. Jerry Chapman, who led the league in field goals a year ago, must be replaced.
Outlook: The schedule was not friendly last year, when games at Miami, Fla., and Mississippi State helped push the injury total beyond the Bucs' ability to regroup. The talent is available to make a major turnaround, and the schedule is far more friendly.
Last playoff appearance: 1996

4 FURMAN

Nickname: Paladins. **Site:** Greenville, S.C.
Coach: Bobby Johnson (30-27, 5 years)
1998 record: 5-6; **Southern:** 3-5 (tie 5th)
Top Players: LB Will Bouton, 6-2, 219, so.; FS Walter Booth, 5-11, 184, sr.; G Ben Hall, 6-4, 274, sr.; QB Justin Hill, 6-0, 190, jr.; TB Louis Ivory, 5-8, 194, so.; CB Richie Jackson, 6-0, 175, so.; SS John Keith, 6-0, 212, sr.; WR Desmond Kitchings, 5-9, 180, sr.; CB Daniel Roberson, 5-9, 171, so.; K Jason Wells, 6-2, 200, sr.
Strengths: Solid nucleus of veterans and balance. Hill, Kitching and Ivory are big-play returnees on offense. Keith, Bouton and Jackson are turnover-makers on defense. The kicking teams are steady and among the league's best. The offensive line is the most experienced in several years.
Weaknesses: The defensive line lacks numbers and quarterback chasers. There are few proven receivers.
Outlook: A team lacking in maturity and overall speed a year ago should be a little faster and more polished. The Paladins were 5-3 with Keith in the lineup, and his return to health is crucial to success. The defense should be good enough to keep things close, and the more seasoned offense will win most of the close ones.
Last playoff appearance: 1996

5 WESTERN CAROLINA

Nickname: Catamounts. **Site:** Cullowhee
Coach: Bill Bleil (9-13, 2 years)
1998 record: 6-5; **Southern:** 5-3 (3rd)
Top Players: LB Cedric Crudup, 5-10, 237, sr.; P/K David Hill, 5-11, 178, sr.; TB Brad Hoover, 6-2, 222, sr.; LB Corey Jackson, 6-1, 235, so.; DT Anthony Jenkins, 6-1, 273, sr.; FS Eric Johnson, 6-2, 212, sr.; DE Ryan Lawrence, 6-4, 248, jr.; TE Travis Pitman, 6-4, 238, sr.; QB Shawn Snyder, 6-3, 225, sr.; WR Aaron Wright, 6-0, 172, jr.
Strengths: The loss of six defensive starters makes that group a question mark, although Johnson is a terrific player. Hoover's return creates potential for a

Southern

BY ABE HARDESTY, GREENVILLE (S.C.) NEWS

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Lamar Cooper, East Tennessee	5-9	185	Sr.
WR	Daryl Skinner, Appalachian State	5-10	178	Jr.
TE	Jason Barley, Citadel	6-3	233	Jr.
T	Mark Williams, Georgia Southern	6-1	315	Sr.
T	Rich McGrath, Georgia Southern	6-2	283	Sr.
G	Ben Hall, Furman	6-5	292	Sr.
G	Manuel Llaneza, East Tennessee	6-1	297	Sr.
C	Chip Simmons, Citadel	6-0	255	Sr.
QB	Greg Hill, Georgia Southern	5-11	163	Sr.
FB	Adrian Peterson, Georgia Southern	5-10	207	So.
RB	Brad Hoover, Western Carolina	6-2	220	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Voncelles Allen, Georgia Southern	6-0	286	Sr.
E	Rocky Hunt, Appalachian State	6-1	261	Sr.
T	Jamie Lovern, Appalachian State	6-4	270	Jr.
T	Anthony Jenkins, Western Carolina	6-1	277	Sr.
LB	Kevin Peterson, East Tennessee	5-10	235	Sr.
LB	Daryl Morrell, Georgia Southern	5-9	180	Jr.
LB	Denny Haywood, Citadel	5-10	220	Jr.
CB	Arkee Thompson, Georgia Southern	6-0	180	So.
CB	Chuck Payne, Appalachian State	5-8	187	Sr.
S	John Keith, Furman	6-0	207	Sr.
S	Eric Johnson, Western Carolina	6-2	206	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Chris Chambers, Georgia Southern	5-9	177	Sr.
P	Brian Reilly, Appalachian State	6-3	217	Sr.
KR	Carlos Frank, Citadel	5-9	170	Sr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Phillip Mouzon, RB, Ga. Southern
Top defensive newcomer: Cherrod Holmes, DT, Furman
Best offensive backfield: East Tennessee
Best wide receivers: Appalachian State
Best offensive line: Georgia Southern
Best defensive line: Appalachian State
Best linebackers: East Tennessee
Best secondary: Georgia Southern
Best special teams: Furman
Hardest hitter: John Keith, S, Furman
Best backup QB: Jamey Chadwell, East Tennessee
Best pro prospect: Mark Williams, OT, Ga. Southern
Best game-day atmosphere: Appalachian State

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Greg Hill, QB, Georgia Southern
Defense: Eric Johnson, S, Western Carolina

potent running game, but much of the front-line firepower has departed.

Weaknesses: Even with an experienced front, the passing game produced more turnovers than touchdowns last year. After four years of quality work as punter and kicker, Ken Hinsley must be replaced in both roles.

Outlook: The Catamounts made big strides last year, particularly on defense, and have enough holdovers to again be formidable. But duplicating a 5-3 league finish will be difficult.

Last playoff appearance: 1983

6 WOFFORD

Nickname: Terriers. **Site:** Spartanburg, S.C.

Coach: Mike Ayers (64-56-1, 11 years; 75-77-2, 14 years)

1998 record: 4-7; Southern: 3-5 (tie 6th)

Top Players: DT Luie Black, 6-1, 279, sr.; NT Brian Bodor, 6-0, 255, jr.; TE Travis Brightbill, 6-3, 250, sr.; FS Travis Cash, 6-3, 192, sr.; FB Tony Hudson, 5-11, 215, jr.; HB Will Hunter, 5-9, 203, sr.; OT/C Greg Rhoads, 6-2, 276, sr.; WR Jeff Scott, 5-9, 160, jr.; LB Roland Tucker, 5-9, 195, jr.; QB Travis Wilson, 6-2, 185, so.

Strengths: Key figures are back from last year's defensive front that made Wofford one of the league's toughest against the run. Wilson blossomed in his freshman year as a double threat, giving the team a legitimate passing threat to go with a power running game.

Weaknesses: The secondary must be rebuilt, and three new starters must be worked into the offensive front. The kicking units were a liability a year ago.

Outlook: Wofford has earned a surprising amount of respect around the league in just two seasons and came within a last-minute field goal of beating Marshall last November. While no one expected a 3-5 league record last year, better offensive balance gives the Terriers a chance at .500 this year.

Last playoff appearance: none

7 TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA

Nickname: Mocs. **Site:** Chattanooga

Coach: Buddy Green (22-33, 4 years)

1998 record: 5-6; Southern: 4-4 (tie 4th)

Top Players: LB Barrett Askew, 6-1, 232, sr.; LB Carleton Bexley, 5-11, 220, sr.; CB Cos DeMatteo, 6-2, 190, so.; SS Damon Floyd, 5-10, 175, sr.; WR Stephon Hawkins, 5-11, 186, sr.; CB Carlos Locklyn, 5-10, 195, sr.; RB Charles McNeil, 5-7, 170, so.; TE Jamal Randolph, 6-2, 205, sr.; QB Chris Sanders, 6-0, 210, jr.; OL Richard Tufao, 6-4, 325, sr.

Strengths: Depth and experience at linebacker and in the secondary.

Weaknesses: The loss of nine starters on offense, including school record-breaker Brian Hampton, leaves little experience on that unit. The defensive front will feature five new starters.

Outlook: Facing the league's biggest rebuilding job, the Mocs will struggle to stay in the middle of the pack.

Last playoff appearance: 1984

SOUTHERN SCHEDULES

APPALACHIAN STATE

Sept. 4 at Auburn
 Sept. 11 Eastern Kentucky
 Sept. 25 at Citadel
 Oct. 2 East Tennessee State
 Oct. 9 at Furman
 Oct. 16 Georgia Southern
 Oct. 23 at Wofford
 Oct. 30 Tenn.-Chattanooga
 Nov. 6 at Virginia Military
 Nov. 13 Western Carolina
 Nov. 20 at Liberty

CITADEL

Sept. 2 at East Tennessee St.
 Sept. 11 Delaware
 Sept. 18 at Western Carolina
 Sept. 25 Appalachian State
 Oct. 2 South Carolina State
 Oct. 9 at Vanderbilt
 Oct. 16 Furman
 Oct. 23 at Georgia Southern
 Oct. 30 Wofford
 Nov. 6 at Tenn.-Chattanooga
 Nov. 13 Virginia Military

EAST TENNESSEE STATE

Sept. 2 Citadel
 Sept. 11 West Virginia Tech
 Sept. 18 at Virginia Military
 Sept. 25 Western Carolina
 Oct. 2 at Appalachian State
 Oct. 16 Liberty
 Oct. 23 at Furman
 Oct. 30 Georgia Southern
 Nov. 6 at Wofford
 Nov. 13 Tenn.-Chattanooga
 Nov. 20 at Mid. Tennessee St.

FURMAN

Sept. 4 Elon
 Sept. 18 at William & Mary
 Sept. 25 Virginia Military
 Oct. 2 at Western Carolina
 Oct. 9 Appalachian State
 Oct. 16 at Citadel
 Oct. 23 East Tennessee State
 Oct. 30 at North Carolina
 Nov. 6 at Georgia Southern
 Nov. 13 Wofford
 Nov. 20 at Tenn.-Chattanooga

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Sept. 4 Fayetteville State
 Sept. 11 at Wofford
 Sept. 18 at Oregon State
 Sept. 25 Tenn.-Chattanooga
 Oct. 2 at Virginia Military
 Oct. 9 Western Carolina

Oct. 16 at Appalachian State
 Oct. 23 Citadel
 Oct. 30 at East Tennessee St.
 Nov. 6 Furman
 Nov. 13 at Jacksonville State

TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA

Sept. 2 at Samford
 Sept. 11 at Louisville
 Sept. 18 Savannah State
 Sept. 25 at Georgia Southern
 Oct. 2 Wofford
 Oct. 16 at Virginia Military
 Oct. 23 Western Carolina
 Oct. 30 at Appalachian State
 Nov. 6 Citadel
 Nov. 13 at East Tennessee St.
 Nov. 20 Furman

VIRGINIA MILITARY

Sept. 4 at Richmond
 Sept. 11 Concord
 Sept. 18 East Tennessee State
 Sept. 25 at Furman
 Oct. 2 Georgia Southern
 Oct. 9 at Wofford
 Oct. 16 Tenn.-Chattanooga
 Oct. 23 William & Mary
 Oct. 30 at Western Carolina
 Nov. 6 Appalachian State
 Nov. 13 at Citadel

WESTERN CAROLINA

Sept. 2 Mars Hill
 Sept. 11 at Maryland
 Sept. 18 Citadel
 Sept. 25 at East Tennessee St.
 Oct. 2 Furman
 Oct. 9 at Georgia Southern
 Oct. 16 Wofford
 Oct. 23 at Tenn.-Chattanooga
 Oct. 30 Virginia Military
 Nov. 6 Samford
 Nov. 13 at Appalachian State

WOFFORD

Sept. 11 Georgia Southern
 Sept. 18 at Mid. Tennessee St.
 Sept. 25 Charleston Southern
 Oct. 2 at Tenn.-Chattanooga
 Oct. 9 Virginia Military
 Oct. 16 at Western Carolina
 Oct. 23 Appalachian State
 Oct. 30 at Citadel
 Nov. 6 East Tennessee State
 Nov. 13 at Furman
 Nov. 20 at SW Louisiana

On paper, it looks like a power offense, with fullback Adrian Peterson plowing between mammoth linemen Mark Williams and Rich McGrath. But what makes defensive coordinators agonize on Friday nights, and what makes opposing linebackers tackle air on Saturdays, is the deceptive aspect of Georgia Southern's triple-option attack. And no one is more sneaky, or slippery, than 5-11, 163-pound quarterback Greg Hill.

"If you're trying to take away the fullback, they

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Greg Hill, Georgia Southern



hurt you with the quarterback and the pitch," says Furman coach Bobby Johnson, who watched Hill run for 219 yards and four TDs against his team last year. "You can't sit there with five guys waiting on Peterson."

Hill runs well and pitches well, and in his second year as a starter last season he also passed well. By completing 59 percent of his passes for 1,638 yards and 11 touchdowns, Hill has multiplied the task of stopping an offense that shattered Southern Conference scoring records.

"Everyone talks about the offensive line and the fullback," says wingback Corey Joyner says, "but we'd be nothing without Greg." —Abe Hardesty

8 THE CITADEL

Nickname: Bulldogs. **Site:** Charleston, S.C.
Coach: Don Powers (15-18, 3 years)
1998 record: 5-6; **Southern:** 4-4 (tie 4th)
Top Players: TE Jason Barley, 6-3, 240, jr.; WR/KR Carlos Frank, 5-9, 170, sr.; WR Dendrick Gamble, 5-10, 165, jr.; LB Britt Gardner, 6-0, 220, jr.; LB Denny Haywood, 6-2, 225, jr.; TB Deon Jackson, 5-10, 195, sr.; LB Dean Kelley, 6-1, 230, sr.; DT Mario Richardson, 6-1, 285, jr.; C Chip Simmons, 6-0, 250, sr.; CB Chris Webb, 5-10, 190, sr.

Strengths: Most of the front line is back from an offense that averaged 200 rushing yards a game. Frank is a big-play threat at receiver and on kick returns. Barley could emerge as one of the league's better tight ends.

Weaknesses: Extensive rebuilding is needed at two critical areas—the offensive backfield and the defensive front. Half the secondary must be replaced.

Outlook: An efficient offense, one that posted the league's best turnover margin, was the key to a 4-4 Southern finish last year. The graduate of longtime quarterback Stanley Myers will make that hard to duplicate. **Last playoff appearance:** 1992

9 VIRGINIA MILITARY

Nickname: Keydets. **Site:** Lexington
Coach: Cal McCombs (1st year)
1998 record: 1-10; **Southern:** 0-8 (9th)
Top Players: OT Charlie Bennett, 6-5, 250, sr.; TE Tom Boyer, 6-3, 230, sr.; C Cabell Brockman, 6-2, 250, jr.; RB Gene Cauthen, 5-10, 180, so.; QB Robbie Chenault, 6-1, 195, jr.; OG Bryan Dalton, 6-2, 260, so.; OG Greg Fedor, jr.; WR Terry Frost, 6-0, 175, jr.; FS John Herrin, 5-10, 175, jr.; SS Deffy Mubangu, 6-2, 185, jr.; CB Quesuan Wigfall, 6-0, 190, jr.; WR Aaron Yarbough, 5-10, 165, so.
Strengths: The return of 10 offensive starters, including Chenault and Frost, offers the potential to move the chains. Seven of the top eight defensive linemen return.
Weaknesses: The perimeter defense, by league standards a step slow last year, has lost five of its best players. Freshmen will be needed for help at linebacker and in the secondary.
Outlook: After going 19-88 in league play over the last 16 years, there are growing doubts that the small military school realistically can compete at this level. This year isn't likely to erase the doubts. **Last playoff appearance:** none

SOUTHLAND

1 TROY STATE

Nickname: Trojans. **Site:** Troy, Ala.
Coach: Larry Blakeney (71-25-1, 8 years)
1998 record: 8-4 (lost to Florida A&M in first round of 1-AA playoffs); **Southern:** 5-2 (tie 2nd)
Top Players: P Matt Allen, 6-5, 225, jr.; FB Thad Buttone, 6-1, 230, jr.; LB Nick Colbert, 6-3, 225, jr.; RB Phillip Jones, 5-10, 190, sr.; DT Al Lucas, 6-2, 280, sr.; QB Brock Nutter, 6-2, 205, so.; WR Mareno Philayaw, 6-3, 200, sr.; LB Anthony Rabb, 5-11, 235, sr.; CB Eric Sloan, 5-9, 180, sr.; RB Wayne Thomas, 6-0, 190, so.; K Lawrence Tynes, 6-1, 170, jr.
Strengths: A playoff team last season, Troy State is stacked with talent, including playmakers at the skill positions. Quarterback Brock Nutter, a sophomore, gives stability to that position. Tailbacks Wayne Thomas and Phillip Jones are workhorses, and fullback Thad Buttone and wide receiver Mareno Philayaw could vie for league honors. The defense should be strong, highlighted by the linemen and secondary.
Weaknesses: The Trojans must replace three starters on the offensive line, including All-America Cleve Roberts. The defense lost tackle Marcus Spriggs, one of the best Division I-AA linemen last season.
Outlook: The Trojans are the team to beat because they have a lot of experience and talent returning from a team that lost just three regular-season games, one to Division I-A Marshall. They have the skill position players and the linemen to win the league title. **Last playoff appearance:** 1998

2 McNEESE STATE

Nickname: Cowboys. **Site:** Lake Charles, La.
Coach: Kirby Bruchhaus (1st year)
1998 record: 9-3 (lost to Massachusetts in first round of 1-AA playoffs); **Southern:** 5-2 (tie 2nd)
Top Players: RB Jessie Burton, 5-10, 193, so.; LB Wayne Cordova, 6-0, 220, sr.; S Tarius Davis, 6-1, 215, sr.; DT Brian Gill, 6-4, 263, sr.; OT Wes Hines, 6-3, 307, jr.; DB Jerod Jones, 5-11, 176, jr.; DB Joe Judge, 6-0, 196, so.; K Shonz LaFrenz, 5-11, 180, sr.; TE Pat Matthews, 6-2, 251, sr.; QB Blake Prejean, 6-3, 223, sr.
Strengths: McNeese returns 17 starters, led by sophomore tailback Jessie Burton, the league's rushing, scoring and all-purpose running leader last season. Quarterback Blake Prejean, kicker Shonz LaFrenz and safety Tarius Davis are all-league candidates who need to produce for the Cowboys to be successful.
Weaknesses: McNeese has some gaps to fill at linebacker and wide receiver. The team is going through a coaching change. Bobby Keasler bolted for Northeast Louisiana. Kirby Bruchhaus, formerly the defensive coordinator, is the new coach.
Outlook: With 49 lettermen, McNeese has the players to challenge for the league title and a national championship. The program will miss Keasler, and will have a new offensive coordinator as well. All of the changes followed a season in which McNeese failed to win the league title in the favorites' role and suffered a first-round playoff loss. **Last playoff appearance:** 1998

3 NORTHWESTERN STATE

Nickname: Demons. **Site:** Natchitoches, La.
Coach: Sam Goodwin (98-81-1, 16 years; 107-93-4 overall, 18 years)
1998 record: 11-3 (lost to Massachusetts in semifinals of 1-AA playoffs); **Southern:** 6-1 (1st)
Top Players: WR Nathan Black, 6-4, 193, so.; C William Broussard, 6-0, 262, sr.; WR Eric Granger, 6-1, 189, sr.; S Mike Green, 6-0, 184, sr.; TE Jeremy McCullough, 6-3, 231, sr.; LB Jake Michel, 6-3, 253, sr.; WR Chris Pritchett, 6-4, 197, sr.; QB Brad Spangler, 5-11, 189, sr.; RB Tony Taylor, 5-9, 188, so.; G/T Albert Traylor, 6-2, 308, jr.
Strengths: The Demons are loaded on offense with experience and depth at virtually every position. Quarterback Brad Spangler carried the Demons to the semifinals of the 1-AA playoffs and has sophomore tailback Tony Taylor, a first-team all-Southern selection, and a talented offensive line as support for the running game. The receiving corp also is loaded.
Weaknesses: The Demons must rebuild their defensive line and find two cornerbacks. The defense returns some talented players, such as linebacker Jake Michel and safety Mike Green, but there are far more questions than answers with this group. The kicking game has room for improvement, too.
Outlook: With major losses on defense, the Demons will be hard-pressed to repeat as league champions. But hardly anyone expected them to win the title last season, or share it with McNeese State the previous year. The Demons excel as underdogs. **Last playoff appearance:** 1998

4 SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE

Nickname: Bobcats. **Site:** San Marcos
Coach: Bob DeBesse (9-13, 2 years)
1998 record: 4-7; **Southern:** 2-5 (tie 6th)
Top Players: DL Clint Bendele, 6-6, 275, sr.; DB Clifton Black, 6-0, 205, sr.; LB Myron Coleman, 6-2, 197, so.; DB Kendall Jones, 6-0, 194, so.; DL Ben McClellan, 6-1, 237, jr.; DB Sterling Rogers, 6-0, 200, so.; WR James Stewart, 5-10, 167, jr.; WR D'Angelo Torres, 5-9, 175, jr.; DB Darrick Vaughn, 5-11, 185, sr.; QB Sperton Wynn, 6-4, 200, sr.
Strengths: The Bobcats should be on the upswing in coach Bob DeBesse's third year with 18 starters back. Quarterback Sperton Wynn has plenty of help, including his top three receivers and all five offensive linemen from last year's team. The defense returns 10 of the top 11 tacklers.

Weaknesses: The Bobcats are without a game-breaker in the backfield, leaving much of the load on Wynn's shoulders. Although most of the starters on defense return, that unit needs to be more physical. **Outlook:** Southwest Texas is a team on the rise. The Bobcats could move into the Southland's upper tier and stay there a while. Of the projected 22 starters, only eight are seniors. Eight are sophomores. If Wynn (173 of 284 pass completions for 1,851 yards and 10 touchdowns, with six interceptions in 1998) improves, the Bobcats will make life miserable for a lot of teams. **Last playoff appearance:** none

5 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Nickname: Lumberjacks. **Site:** Nacogdoches, Texas
Coach: Mike Santiago (1st year)
1998 record: 3-8; **Southern:** 2-5 (tie 6th)
Top Players: RB KaRon Coleman, 5-9, 200, sr.; S Perry Eliano, 5-9, 200, sr.; QB Travis Fallon, 6-3, 205, jr.; QB Peyton Jones, 6-4, 210, sr.; LB Mike McElroy, 6-3, 225, jr.; S Brandon North, 6-0, 190, jr.; RB Isiah Stoker, 5-11, 185, sr.; OT Joe Tracy, 6-6, 315, sr.; OT David Walden, 6-5, 287, sr.; WR Zach Woods, 5-11, 180, sr.
Strengths: The Lumberjacks are well-stocked at tailback, led by senior KaRon Coleman, and return enough offensive linemen for the running game to be a threat. Perry Eliano moves from linebacker to safety and should be one of the top defenders in the league.
Weaknesses: There are a number of question marks, starting with quarterback Peyton Jones and Travis Fallon, part of a rotation last year, will have to hold off a challenge from Wes Pate, a transfer from Louisiana Tech. The defensive line needs some players, and the wide receiver positions need playmakers. The kicking game is up in the air, too.
Outlook: New coach Mike Santiago, formerly the offensive coordinator at McNeese State, will try to resurrect the Lumberjacks' program. John Pearce was fired after last year's 3-8 record. The team will struggle if its passing game does not show major improvement. The defense has some major question marks, especially in the line. **Last playoff appearance:** 1995

6 SAM HOUSTON STATE

Nickname: Bearkats. **Site:** Huntsville, Texas
Coach: Ron Randleman (91-94-3, 17 years; 178-136-6 overall, 30 years)
1998 record: 3-8; **Southern:** 1-6 (8th)
Top Players: OL Jonathan Braddick, 6-4, 281, sr.; FS Keith Davis, 5-11, 180, so.; WR Matt Dominguez, 6-3, 215, jr.; CB Chris Foster, 5-11, 165, jr.; DE Fabian Johnson, 6-0, 220, sr.; DE Dwayne McCurdy, 6-4, 262, sr.; C Victor McKnight, 5-10, 290, sr.; WR Larry Nixon, 6-1, 205, sr.; RB Joe Rauls, 5-7, 190, so.; TE Phillip Zurek, 6-1, 212, sr.
Strengths: Eight offensive starters return for the Bearkats. Wide receiver Matt Dominguez is big and strong and has developed into one of the best at his position in Division I-AA. Running back Joe Rauls, who rushed for more than 800 yards last season, is back. The foundation for a solid running game is set with three starters back in the line.
Weaknesses: The Bearkats haven't stopped many opponents lately and they may have trouble slowing down teams this year. The defense allowed at least 30 points in six of its conference losses last season. With just five defensive starters returning, the unit could be in for another long season. On offense, Dominguez is a game-breaker, but he needs some help.
Outlook: The Bearkats need a breakthrough season. They signed 31 recruits, including 14 junior college transfers, and hired a new offensive coordinator. If the defense can make a stand, the Bearkats can improve. If it can't, another tough season looms. **Last playoff appearance:** 1991

Southland

BY KEVIN GORE, NACOGDOCHES (TEXAS) DAILY SENTINEL

All-Conference

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Matt Dominguez, Sam Houston	6-3	215	Jr.
WR	Joey Hamilton, Jacksonville State	6-3	195	Sr.
TE	Pat Matthews, McNeese State	6-1	250	Sr.
T	Joe Tracy, Stephen F. Austin	6-6	320	Sr.
T	Michael Childress, Jacksonville St.	6-5	290	Sr.
G	Albert Traylor, Northwestern State	6-3	285	Jr.
G	Wes Hines, McNeese State	6-3	320	Jr.
C	Victor McKnight, Sam Houston St.	5-10	290	Sr.
QB	Blake Prejean, McNeese State	6-3	215	Sr.
RB	Jessie Burton, McNeese State	5-10	185	So.
RB	Tony Taylor, Northwestern State	5-9	185	So.

DEFENSE

E	Tim Betts, Troy State	6-3	230	Sr.
E	Clint Bendeke, Southwest Texas St.	6-6	275	Sr.
T	Al Lucas, Troy State	6-2	280	Sr.
T	Brian Gill, McNeese State	6-4	258	Sr.
LB	Anthony Rabb, Troy State	5-11	235	Sr.
LB	Alton Murphy, Jacksonville State	6-1	205	Sr.
LB	Jake Michel, Northwestern State	6-1	238	Sr.
CB	Eric Sloan, Troy State	5-9	180	Sr.
CB	Delvin Hughley, Jacksonville St.	5-11	195	Jr.
S	Tarius Davis, McNeese State	6-1	210	Sr.
S	Mike Green, Northwestern State	6-0	167	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Shonz LaFrenz, McNeese State	5-11	180	Sr.
P	David Latta, McNeese State	6-1	190	So.
KR	Lawrence Pullen, Stephen F. Austin	5-6	175	Jr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Wes Pate, QB, S.F. Austin
Top defensive newcomer: Marcus Thomas, CB, NW St.
Best offensive backfield: McNeese State
Best wide receivers: Northwestern State
Best offensive line: Northwestern State
Best defensive line: Troy State
Best linebackers: McNeese State
Best secondary: Troy State
Best special teams: Sam Houston State
Hardest hitter: Mike Green, S, Northwestern State
Best backup QB: Bo Meeks, Northwestern State
Best pro prospect: Eric Sloan, CB, Troy State
Best game-day atmosphere: McNeese State

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Jessie Burton, RB, McNeese State
Defense: Al Lucas, T, Troy State

7 JACKSONVILLE STATE

Nickname: Gamecocks. **Site:** Jacksonville, Ala.
Coach: Mike Williams (8-14, 2 years)
1998 record: 7-4; **Southland:** 4-2 (4th)
Top Players: OL Mike Childress, 6-5, 275, sr.; WR Joey Hamilton, 6-3, 195, sr.; DB Delvin Hughley, 5-11, 195, jr.; FS Natarsha James, 6-0, 195, jr.; FB Daniel Kirkland, 5-8, 195, sr.; LB Alton Murphy, 6-1, 205, sr.; DL Calvin Nicholls, 6-4, 275, sr.; LB David Pleasant, 6-1, 235, sr.; DL Dedrick Riley, 6-2, 265, jr.; OL Jeremy Sullivan, 6-3, 308, so.
Strengths: The Gamecocks have game-breaker Joey Hamilton at wide receiver. Hamilton, who caught 50 passes for 943 yards and eight touchdowns last season, will stretch secondaries and give the rest of the offense room to prosper. Jacksonville has a strong group of linebackers, including David Pleasant, Jimmy Coleman, Alton Murphy and Carnell Buford.
Weaknesses: With three-year starting quarterback Montressa Kirby gone, the offense needs a leader and a playmaker. The team will miss his knack for making big plays. Redshirt freshman Reggie Stancil is expected to start at quarterback. Jacksonville was weak against the run last season, and the defensive line will be young this season.
Outlook: Jacksonville improved from a 1-10 record in 1997 to 7-4. For the Gamecocks to have a winning record this season, they need to get good results from a newcomer at quarterback. Hamilton is an All-American if someone can get him the ball.
Last playoff appearance: none

8 NICHOLLS STATE

Nickname: Colonels. **Site:** Thibodaux, La.
Coach: Daryl Daye (1st season)
1998 record: 4-7; **Southland:** 3-4 (5th)
Top Players: DL Ernie Badeaux, 6-5, 270, sr.; WR Sullivan Beard, 6-1, 160, jr.; LB Kevin Johnson, 6-3, 227, sr.; OL Kevin Jones, 6-3, 316, sr.; OL Brian Junius, 6-5, 298, sr.; K Kyle Leisher, 6-2, 180, jr.; WR Allen Morton, 5-10, 175, sr.; DB Derrick Pittman, 5-10, 170, jr.; RB Eric Riggins, 6-1, 210, jr. (transfer, Southern Mississippi); DB Aaron Smith, 5-9, 175, jr.
Strengths: The Colonels return eight defensive starters from a unit that ranked third in the conference in rush defense last season. Most of the front seven are back. Nicholls' secondary suffered last year but should be better.
Weaknesses: Who's going to pass the ball? Who's going to run? The Colonels need a replacement for quarterback Brad Zeller, a four-year starter. He was the team's leading passer and rusher last season. The team also lost middle linebacker Murphy Edwards. Kevin Johnson is expected to fill that void.
Outlook: The Colonels have a new coach, Daryl Daye, formerly the co-defensive coordinator at Liberty. He inherits a team that returns eight defensive starters and dependable kicker Kyle Leisher. Daye promises a high-octane offense, but he may lack the talent to immediately fuel that sort of attack.
Last playoff appearance: 1996

SOUTHLAND SCHEDULES

JACKSONVILLE STATE	SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE
Sept. 4 Alabama A&M	Sept. 4 Midwestern State
Sept. 25 Nicholls State	Sept. 11 at Hofstra
Oct. 2 at Samford	Sept. 25 Northern Arizona
Oct. 9 at Sam Houston State	Oct. 2 Southern Illinois
Oct. 16 McNeese State	Oct. 9 at Nicholls State
Oct. 23 Southwest Texas St.	Oct. 16 Troy State
Oct. 30 at Stephen F. Austin	Oct. 23 at Jacksonville State
Nov. 6 at Northwestern State	Oct. 30 at Northwestern State
Nov. 13 Georgia Southern	Nov. 6 McNeese State
Nov. 20 at Troy State	Nov. 13 at Stephen F. Austin
	Nov. 20 Sam Houston State
MCNEESE STATE	SAM HOUSTON STATE
Sept. 4 Northern Iowa	Sept. 2 Delta State
Sept. 18 Southern Utah	Sept. 11 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 2 at Maine	Sept. 25 at Tex. A&M-Kingsville
Oct. 9 at Stephen F. Austin	Oct. 2 at Arkansas State
Oct. 16 at Jacksonville State	Oct. 9 Jacksonville State
Oct. 23 Northwestern State	Oct. 16 Stephen F. Austin
Oct. 30 Sam Houston State	Oct. 23 at Troy State
Nov. 6 at Southwest Texas St.	Oct. 30 at McNeese State
Nov. 13 Troy State	Nov. 6 Nicholls State
Nov. 20 at Nicholls State	Nov. 13 Northwestern State
	Nov. 20 at Southwest Texas St.
NICHOLLS STATE	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Sept. 4 at NE Louisiana	Sept. 4 Abilene Christian
Sept. 18 Western Illinois	Sept. 11 at Utah State
Sept. 25 at Jacksonville State	Sept. 18 TBA
Oct. 2 at Northwestern State	Oct. 2 at New Hampshire
Oct. 9 Southwest Texas St.	Oct. 9 McNeese State
Oct. 16 at Central Florida	Oct. 16 at Sam Houston State
Oct. 23 at Stephen F. Austin	Oct. 23 Nicholls State
Oct. 30 Troy State	Oct. 30 Jacksonville State
Nov. 6 at Sam Houston State	Nov. 6 at Troy State
Nov. 13 Samford	Nov. 13 Southwest Texas St.
Nov. 20 McNeese State	Nov. 20 at Northwestern State
NORTHWESTERN STATE	TROY STATE
Sept. 4 at Southern	Sept. 11 at Cincinnati
Sept. 11 at So. Mississippi	Sept. 18 at Alabama State
Sept. 18 Tarleton State	Sept. 25 South Florida
Sept. 25 at NE Louisiana	Oct. 2 at Middle Tennessee St.
Oct. 2 Nicholls State	Oct. 9 Northwestern State
Oct. 9 at Troy State	Oct. 16 at Southwest Texas St.
Oct. 23 at McNeese State	Oct. 23 Sam Houston State
Oct. 30 Southwest Texas St.	Oct. 30 at Nicholls State
Nov. 6 Jacksonville State	Nov. 6 Stephen F. Austin
Nov. 13 at Sam Houston State	Nov. 13 at McNeese State
Nov. 20 Stephen F. Austin	Nov. 20 Jacksonville State

**OFFENSIVE
PLAYER
OF THE YEAR**
Jessie Burton, McNeese State

There was a burst of optimism at McNeese State last season—the arrival of highly touted transfer Cecil Collins, who lasted less than half the season before he flunked a drug test, was booted from the team and jailed.

Much of the optimism for this season surrounds a running back for the right reasons. Sophomore Jessie Burton returns to the Cowboys' explosive offense after a breakout redshirt freshman season in which he led the Southland Conference in rushing yards



(1,037), scoring (114 points) and all-purpose rushing (137.4 yards a game) despite missing two regular-season games because of injury.

McNeese State finished second in the Southland and had a 9-3 record, including a 21-19 first-round playoff loss to I-AA champion Massachusetts. Coach Bobby Keasler and offensive coordinator Mike Santiago have left. Burton is still around. "He adds so much because of his speed, quickness and toughness," says McNeese coach Kirby Bruchhaus. "He demonstrated last year that he was one of the best running backs in I-AA." —Kevin Gore

SWAC

BY SCOTT GREMILLION

All-Conference OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Damon Hodge, Alabama State	6-1	190	Sr.
WR	Sylvester Morris, Jackson State	6-3	204	Sr.
TE	Corey Wynne, Arkansas-Pine Bluff	6-3	267	Sr.
T	Terrance Beadles, Ark.-Pine Bluff	6-4	291	Sr.
T	Chad Slaughter, Alcorn State	6-7	301	Sr.
G	Gerald Bledsoe, Alcorn State	6-2	339	Jr.
G	Hosea Minnieweather, Miss. Valley	6-3	330	Sr.
C	Jeramogi Todd, Jackson State	6-1	280	Sr.
QB	Mark Washington, Jackson State	6-4	208	Sr.
RB	Rodney Thomas, Alcorn State	5-10	225	Sr.
RB	Destry Wright, Jackson State	5-10	204	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	Carl Davis, Texas Southern	6-3	220	Jr.
T	Fred Day, Texas Southern	6-3	310	Jr.
T	Charlie Edwards, Ark.-Pine Bluff	6-4	236	Sr.
E	Julius Gardner, Alcorn State	6-3	280	Sr.
LB	Courtney Miller, Prairie View A&M	6-1	215	Jr.
LB	Warren Reed, Texas Southern	6-1	223	Sr.
LB	Channing Warner, Southern	6-1	232	Sr.
CB	Lee Terry Moore, Alcorn State	5-9	174	Sr.
CB	Calvin Spears, Grambling State	6-1	185	So.
S	Gregory Wesley, Ark.-Pine Bluff	6-3	204	Jr.
S	Harold Wooten, Jackson State	6-1	209	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	Richard Pena, Texas Southern	5-9	180	Sr.
P	Matt Bushart, Southern	6-4	258	Sr.
KR	Joey Jamison, Texas Southern	5-9	160	Sr.

HONOR ROLL

Top offensive newcomer: Trey White, RB, Grambling.
Top defensive newcomer: Antonio Mays, L, Southern
Best offensive backfield: Jackson State
Best wide receivers: Alabama State
Best offensive line: Alcorn State
Best defensive line: Southern
Best linebackers: Southern
Best secondary: Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Best special teams: Texas Southern
Hardest hitter: Channing Warner, LB, Southern
Best backup QB: Josh Barnes, Prairie View A&M
Best pro prospect: Sylvester Morris, WR, Jackson State
Best game-day atmosphere: Southern

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Offense: Sylvester Morris, WR, Jackson State
Defense: Harold Wooten, SS, Jackson State

SOUTHWESTERN

EASTERN DIVISION 1 JACKSON STATE

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Jackson, Miss.
Coach: James Carson (54-25-1, 7 years)
1998 record: 7-4; **Southwestern:** 7-1 (2nd)
Top Players: DB Rashard Anderson, 6-3, 195, sr.; DL Eric Chandler, 6-6, 270, sr.; WR Daniel Guy, 6-2, 189, jr.; DL Jason Marshall, 6-3, 270, sr.; WR Sylvester Morris, 6-3, 203, sr.; K Brian Reynolds, 5-10, 155, jr.; QB Mark Washington, 6-4, 208, sr.; DB/LB Harold Wooten, 6-1, 209, sr.; RB Destry Wright, 5-10, 204, sr.; OL Frank Wynn, 6-2, 304, sr.
Outlook: Jackson State, boasting one of the Southwestern's most experienced teams, could finish the 1999s on a winning note. That is especially true on offense, where the Tigers return Wright, Washington and Morris. To meet the lofty expectations, Jackson State must improve on a defense that allowed at least 26 points in nine of its 11 games last year.
Last playoff appearance: 1997

2 ALABAMA STATE

Nickname: Hornets. **Site:** Montgomery
Coach: Ron Dickerson Sr. (5-11, 1 year; 13-58 overall, 6 years)
1998 record: 5-6; **Southwestern:** 3-5 (tie 6th)
Top Players: G Rodney Alix, 6-1, 320, jr.; LB Chris Daniels, 6-2, 228, jr.; DT Moses Harper, 6-4, 282, jr.; DB Eldrick Hill, 5-11, 165, sr.; WR Damon Hodge, 6-1, 182, sr.; DB Eric Hudson, 6-3, 212, jr.; QB Darnell Kennedy, 6-1, 180, jr.; OT William Peake, 6-3, 310, sr.; OL Marvin Taylor, 6-4, 300, sr.; TE Marquez Thomas, 6-4, 220, jr.
Outlook: If Alabama State retains its momentum from last season, it could compete for the Eastern Division championship. The Hornets got better as Dickerson's first season wore on, winning four of their last five games after a 1-5 start. The Hornets scored at least 27 points in seven of the last nine games. They return Kennedy, the Southwestern leader in passing yards and total offense, and Hodge, who led the conference in receptions.
Last playoff appearance: none

3 ALCORN STATE

Nickname: Braves. **Site:** Lorman, Miss.
Coach: Johnny D. Thomas (5-6, 1 year)
1998 record: 5-6; **Southwestern:** 3-5 (tie 6th)
Top Players: OL Gerald Bledsoe, 6-2, 339, sr.; G Joe Crawford, 6-2, 348, sr.; QB Damion Ford, 6-4, 195, so.; DT Julius Gardner, 6-3, 280, sr.; OT Michael McGee, 6-4, 290, jr.; K Erik Newman, 5-10, 180, jr.; WR Rennard Reynolds, 6-2, 175, sr.; OT Chad Slaughter, 6-8, 305, sr.; LB Clifford Thomas, 6-0, 220, jr.; RB Rodney Thomas, 5-10, 225, sr.
Outlook: Thomas is a proven ground-gainer for the Braves, who ranked second to Jackson State in the league in total offense last season. That did not translate into points, however, as Alcorn State ranked seventh in scoring. The Braves were not the same after losing to

SWAC SCHEDULES

ALABAMA A&M

Sept. 4 at Jacksonville State
 Sept. 11 at Grambling State
 Sept. 18 at Mississippi Valley St.
 Sept. 25 Prairie View A&M
 Oct. 2 Tennessee State
 Oct. 9 at Southern
 Oct. 16 Tuskegee
 Oct. 23 Jackson State
 Oct. 30 at Alabama State
 Nov. 13 at Alcorn State
 Nov. 20 Arkansas-Pine Bluff

ALABAMA STATE

Sept. 4 at Tennessee State
 Sept. 11 Alcorn State
 Sept. 18 Troy State
 Sept. 25 Southern
 Oct. 2 at Mississippi Valley St.
 Oct. 9 at Jackson State
 Oct. 16 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Oct. 30 Alabama A&M
 Nov. 6 Grambling State
 Nov. 13 Prairie View A&M
 Nov. 25 Tuskegee

ALCORN STATE

Sept. 4 Grambling State
 Sept. 11 at Alabama State
 Sept. 25 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Oct. 2 Morehouse
 Oct. 9 Prairie View A&M
 Oct. 16 at Texas Southern
 Oct. 23 at Southern
 Nov. 6 Mississippi Valley St.
 Nov. 13 Alabama A&M
 Nov. 20 at Jackson State

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF

Sept. 4 Mississippi Valley St.
 Sept. 11 at Southern
 Sept. 18 vs. Hampton
 Sept. 25 Alcorn State
 Oct. 9 Texas Southern
 Oct. 16 Alabama State
 Oct. 23 Grambling State
 Oct. 30 at Jackson State
 Nov. 6 at Prairie View A&M
 Nov. 13 Lane College
 Nov. 20 at Alabama A&M

GRAMBLING STATE

Sept. 4 at Alcorn State
 Sept. 11 Alabama A&M
 Sept. 18 at Jackson State
 Sept. 25 Hampton
 Oct. 2 Prairie View A&M
 Oct. 9 Mississippi Valley St.
 Oct. 23 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Oct. 30 Texas Southern
 Nov. 6 at Alabama State
 Nov. 13 at Winston-Salem
 Nov. 27 Southern

JACKSON STATE

Sept. 4 Howard
 Sept. 11 at Tennessee State
 Sept. 18 Grambling State
 Sept. 25 Mississippi Valley St.
 Oct. 9 Alabama State
 Oct. 16 Southern
 Oct. 23 at Alabama A&M
 Oct. 30 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Nov. 6 at Texas Southern
 Nov. 13 at New Haven
 Nov. 20 Alcorn State

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

Sept. 4 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Sept. 11 at Western Illinois
 Sept. 18 Alabama A&M
 Sept. 25 at Jackson State
 Oct. 2 Alabama State
 Oct. 9 at Grambling State
 Oct. 16 at Albany State
 Oct. 23 Texas Southern
 Oct. 30 at Prairie View A&M
 Nov. 6 at Alcorn State
 Nov. 13 Morris Brown

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

Sept. 4 Texas Southern
 Sept. 11 Howard Payne
 Sept. 18 at Southern
 Sept. 25 at Alabama A&M
 Oct. 2 Grambling State
 Oct. 9 at Alcorn State
 Oct. 16 at Alabama State
 Oct. 23 Panhandle State
 Oct. 30 Mississippi Valley St.
 Nov. 6 Arkansas-Pine Bluff

SOUTHERN

Sept. 4 Northwestern State
 Sept. 11 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Sept. 18 Prairie View A&M
 Sept. 25 Alabama State
 Oct. 2 Hampton
 Oct. 9 Alabama A&M
 Oct. 16 at Jackson State
 Oct. 23 Alcorn State
 Nov. 6 at Florida A&M
 Nov. 13 at Texas Southern
 Nov. 27 Grambling State

TEXAS SOUTHERN

Sept. 4 Prairie View A&M
 Sept. 11 at SW Missouri State
 Sept. 18 Lane College
 Sept. 25 at Howard
 Oct. 9 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Oct. 16 Alcorn State
 Oct. 23 at Mississippi Valley St.
 Oct. 30 at Grambling State
 Nov. 6 Jackson State
 Nov. 13 Southern
 Nov. 20 Norfolk State

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Sylvester Morris, Jackson State

Jackson State wide receiver Sylvester Morris is neither a cartoon kitty nor a finicky feline. The 6-3, 203-pound senior known as "Cat" ranks among the best to play wide receiver for the Tigers. In three seasons Morris has set school records for touchdowns in a game, touchdowns in a season and receiving yards in a season.

Morris got off to a slow start last season with two catches for minus-1 yard against Howard and five catches for 42 yards against Tennessee State. Then



came what Morris considered a breakthrough game with seven catches for 100 yards against Florida A&M, the first of seven straight games in triple figures. His assault on Jackson State's record book started with five touchdown catches against Grambling State, breaking the previous mark of four. He totaled 17 touchdown catches, breaking the previous record of 11, and 1,258 receiving yards, breaking the previous mark of 1,227.

"It's amazing to start off the season the way I did, then accomplish all those things," Morris says. "I just have to do better. My goal is to always get better." Barring a cat-astrophe, Morris should reach that goal.—Scott Gremillion

Southern on the game's final play; they lost two of their next three games.

Last playoff appearance: 1994

4 ALABAMA A&M

Nickname: Bulldogs. Site: Normal.

Coach: Ron Cooper (5-6, 1 year; 27-39 overall, 6 years)

1998 record: 5-6

Top Players: CB Jason Boykin, 6-0, 180, so. (transfer, Louisville); RB Kelly Fields, 5-11, 185, sr.; WR Kenyon Hambrick, 6-2, 190, so. (junior college transfer); CB Brian Johnson, 5-10, 175, so.; DT James Nowlin, 6-2, 280, sr.; LB Michael Pinckney, 6-2, 230, sr.; DE Anthony Pollock, 6-4, 250, so. (transfer, Louisville); OT Kendrick Rogers, 6-5, 280, jr.; G Chance Turner, 6-4, 330, jr. (transfer, Alabama State); FS Rashad Watson, 5-11, 180, so.

Outlook: Alabama A&M's second season in Division I-AA could be a lot like its first. Inconsistencies plagued the Bulldogs, who won four of six games against Southwestern teams, including a home victory over conference champion Southern. The Bulldogs, lacking the depth to be competitive week in and week out, lost four of their last five games. Alabama A&M lost its one marquee player, QB Ronald Hayes.

Last playoff appearance: none

5 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

Nickname: Delta Devils. Site: Itta Bena

Coach: LaTraia Jones (first year)

1998 record: 1-10; Southwestern: 1-7 (8th)

Top Players: DT Anthony Bonner, 6-2, 285, sr.; LB Samuel Dickerson, 6-1, 220, sr.; DE Marlon Evans, 6-6, 280, sr.; DL Michael Head, 6-1, 290, so.; LB Norco McGuire, 6-2, 255, so.; G Hosea Minnieweather, 6-3, 330, jr.; DB Marcus Sims, 6-4, 215, sr.; DL Saxton Torrence, 6-4, 300, sr.; C Terrance Ware, 6-3, 295, sr.; QB Melvin Williams, 6-3, 200, jr.

Outlook: Jones, formerly the defensive coordinator at Arkansas-Pine Bluff, will be hard-pressed to match the workhorse philosophy of his predecessor, Larry Dorsey, who wore a green construction hard hat to practice. Jones has his work cut out. The Delta Devils' offense scored fewer than 19 points in eight of 11 games last season, and the defense surrendered at least 20 points in each of 10 games.

Last playoff appearance: 1984

WESTERN DIVISION

1 SOUTHERN

Nickname: Jaguars. Site: Baton Rouge, La.

Coach: Pete Richardson (56-15, 6 years; 97-29-1 overall, 11 years)

1998 record: 9-3; Southwestern: 8-0 (1st)

Top Players: TE Dan Anderson, 6-6, 240, sr.; P Matt Bushart, 6-4, 240, sr.; SS Edreece Brown, 5-9, 180, sr.; K Justin Mattingly, 5-10, 190, so.; OL Damon Nivens, 6-6, 320, sr.; CB Bradley Pittman, 6-0, 175, sr.; LB Shannon Smith, 5-11, 220, jr.; LB Channing Warner, 6-2, 240, sr.; DE Gillis Wilson, 6-3, 280, sr.

Outlook: Southern could have trouble sustaining its recent success—20-4 the last two seasons, including 16-0 in the Southwestern. The Jaguars won six games last year by a total of 28 points. Southern lost eight of 11 starters, including RB Steve Wofford, QB Sam George, WR John Forman and four of five linemen. Their replacements all have game experience.

Last playoff appearance: none

2 ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF

Nickname: Golden Lions. Site: Pine Bluff

Coach: Lee Hardman (41-25, 6 years)

1998 record: 8-3; Southwestern: 6-2 (3rd)

Top Players: LT Terrance Beadles, 6-4, 291, sr.; DE Earnest Grant, 6-7, 297, sr.; RB Ron Johnson, 5-11, 197, jr. (transfer, Arkansas); DT Jason Jones, 6-2, 334, jr. (transfer, Texas Tech); K Richard Pena, 5-9, 180, sr.; WR Kevin Soward, 5-11, 166, sr.; DB Dante Wesley, 6-1, 179,

so. (transfer, Arkansas); DB Greg Wesley, 6-3, 204, jr.; WR Kevin Williams, 6-1, 174, sr.; TE Corey Wynne, 6-3, 267, sr. Outlook: This could be a breakthrough season for Arkansas-Pine Bluff, which has yet to defeat Southern and Jackson State in two years as a Southwestern member. The Golden Lions lost those games by a combined 10 points last season. Hardman must find replacements for such standouts as QB Rod Robinson, RB Cory Nichols, LB Marcus Holloway and DB Chris Atkins.

Last playoff appearance: none

3 GRAMBLING STATE

Nickname: Tigers. Site: Grambling, La.

Coach: Doug Williams (5-6, 1 year; 8-13 overall, 2 years)

1998 record: 5-6; Southwestern: 4-4 (tie 4th)

Top Players: WR Scotty Anderson, 6-2, 200, jr.; DB Vyron Brown, 5-7, 170, so.; DB Terrance Dukes, 6-0, 205, so.; LB George Guidry, 6-2, 230, jr.; QB Lionel Hayes, 6-4, 225, sr.; OL Frank Livingston, 6-6, 235, sr.; DE Dante Newell, 6-1, 240, jr.; DB Calvin Pearson, 5-10, 185, so.; DB Calvin Spears, 6-1, 185, so.; LB Robert Taylor, 6-6, 230, jr.

Outlook: Grambling State should continue its renaissance under Williams, a former Tigers quarterback and Super Bowl MVP. Grambling improved throughout last season, but was betrayed by a defense that surrendered 40, 54, 68 and 41 points in four October losses.

Last playoff appearance: 1989

4 TEXAS SOUTHERN

Nickname: Tigers. Site: Houston

Coach: Bill Thomas (24-30, 5 years; 59-49-3 overall, 10 years)

1998 record: 6-5; Southwestern: 4-4 (tie 4th)

Top Players: DE Carl Davis, 6-3, 240, sr.; DT Fredrick Day, 6-3, 310, sr.; DE Dwan Epps, 6-3, 240, sr.; WR Cortez Hankton, 6-2, 185, jr.; DT Forrest Hardy, 6-0, 285, sr.; FS Scott Harrell, 6-0, 185, jr.; WR/KR Joey Jamison, 5-9, 160, sr.; WR Theo Henley, 5-9, 180, sr.; WR Markus Howell, 5-11, 185, sr.; LB Warren Reed, 6-1, 223, sr.

Outlook: Texas Southern could have trouble matching what success it had last season. The Tigers won their first four games before losing five of their last seven. Thomas needs to replace RBs Thomas Sieh and D.J. Bradley, each of whom rushed for more than 1,200 yards last season and scored a total of 23 touchdowns.

Last playoff appearance: none

5 PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

Nickname: Panthers. Site: Prairie View, Texas

Coach: Greg E. Johnson (1-10, 1 year; 1-19 overall, 2 years)

1998 record: 1-10; Southwestern: 0-8 (9th)

Top Players: DB Anthony Carr, 5-9, 195, jr.; WR Telley Cobb, 5-9, 180, sr.; LB John Danley, 6-2, 240, sr.; OL Chris Fasano, 6-2, 300, sr.; DB Quincy Fuller, 6-0, 175, sr.; LB Steven Garner, 5-11, 230, sr.; LB Courtney Miller, 6-1, 230, sr.; WR DeMarcus Peterson, 5-9, 160, sr.; DL Antonio Scott, 6-1, 240, sr.; WR Deontay Wilson, 5-9, 160, so.

Outlook: Prairie View snapped its NCAA-record losing streak last season with a victory over Langston, but the Panthers remain winless in Southwestern play since 1989. Prairie View is becoming competitive, losing last year by an average margin of 16 points. Miller could start for most of the conference teams.

Last playoff appearance: none

METRO ATLANTIC

Without a doubt, Fairfield is the best team in the Metro Atlantic this season. But the Stags won't be able to repeat as conference champions because they're on probation. That leaves Georgetown, the 1997 conference champion, as the team to beat.

1 FAIRFIELD

With the loss of one player from last year's conference championship team, Fairfield easily could repeat its

9-2 season. QB Jim Lopusznic received All-American honors after passing for 2,055 yards, and all three top receivers—Eric Wise, Steven Hadley and Joe Milligan—will return for coach Kevin Kiesel. Fairfield's biggest challenge will be filling the void left by the departure of All-American safety Chris Silvestri.

2 GEORGETOWN

The Hoyas return nine of 11 offensive starters from last year's 9-2 team. The big guns are junior WR Gharun Hester and senior QB J.J. Mont. The defensive line and secondary also remain primarily intact, but coach Bob Benson needs to replace both starting linebackers. Georgetown's toughest game should be the season opener against Holy Cross. The Hoyas are 19-2 in the Metro Atlantic the past three seasons.

3 DUQUESNE

QB Tony Zimmerman, who passed for a school record 23 TDs for last season's 8-3 team, will have his two favorite targets returning in Gerald Foster and Reggie Harris. The Dukes return three starters from a secondary that ranked fifth nationally in pass defense. Duquesne went 19 quarters without giving up a scoring pass in 1998 and gave up just eight for the season. The key for coach Greg Gattuso's team will be replacing two all-conference starters on the offensive line and an All-American linebacker.

4 ST. JOHN'S

St. John's has eight defensive starters returning from last season's 6-5 team. Coach Bob Ricca's defense is led by senior DB Ken Krapf, who led the country in interceptions last season with nine, and junior NG Elliot Hulse, who had 12 sacks. The offense's weak running game and young receiving corps probably won't put many points on the scoreboard. The early-season schedule is tough, with games against Marist, Georgetown and Duquesne.

5 MARIST

Marist ranked second in Division I-AA in total defense last season, and most of that unit is returning. The defensive backs to watch are senior Bassell Nelson, junior Joe Macchia and sophomore Matthew O'Connell. The offense for coach Jim Parody's team will have a lot of young players, but the top quarterback and running back are returning from last year's 7-3 team.

6 IONA

This will be Iona's second season under coach Fred Mariani, who hopes for improvement on last year's 4-6 record. The running game should be a strength with the return of four starters on the offensive line and RB Ralph Saldiveri, who rushed for 1,069 yards last season. The defense remains primarily intact. Most of the returning players are young, so there's a lot of room for improvement.

7 CANISUS

Most of the top players are sophomores and juniors. Junior QB Bryan Roland returns from last season's 3-7 team along with a solid group of receivers, including junior Jake Coppola and senior Mike Minnuto. The linebackers corps and secondary remain primarily intact. Coach Chuck Williams will have a difficult time filling holes on the offensive and defensive lines.

8 SIENA

New coach Ed Zaloom is hoping for another big year from RB Sakima Grimes, who gained 5.2 yards a carry in '98. A solid running game would take pressure off sophomore QB Joe Spagnolo. On defense, Siena is led by junior DL Chris Trumbull, who had 53 tackles and eight sacks for last season's 4-6 team.

9 LASALLE

This is LaSalle's first season in the Metro Atlantic, and its third season since reviving its football program. Coach Bill Manlove lost the top two receivers from last season's 3-6 team. The running game should be decent, with the return of sophomore RB Brian Small. Four of the top five tacklers return, including junior S Rocky DeVuono and junior DB Jo-Jo Pitta.

10 ST. PETER'S

This figures to be another rough season for coach Rob Stern and St. Peter's. Last year, the team went 0-10 and scored no more than seven points in any of the final nine games. The few bright spots on the team include senior WR Jelani Polite, junior RB/KR Sylvester Miller and sophomore DE Jeran Crawford, who was the conference 1998 defensive rookie of the year. — Todd Fitzpatrick

NORTHEAST

The Northeast Conference welcomes two new members—Albany (formerly known as State University of New York-Albany) and Stony Brook. Both were Division II programs last year. The cream of the conference again should be Robert Morris and Monmouth, who have shared two of the last three conference titles. Robert Morris won the other outright.

1 ROBERT MORRIS

Robert Morris has won or shared three straight conference titles, all under the direction of former New York Jets coach Joe Walton, and there's no reason to believe the Colonials won't finish on top again. The skill positions are particularly strong, and the continued development of QB Tim Levick, the conference's 1998 offensive newcomer of the year, will be key. The Colonials also welcome back the conference's defensive newcomer of the year, LB Brad Miller, who had 76 tackles last season.

2 MONMOUTH

The Hawks have some big holes to fill, considering they lost the school's all-time leading rusher, three starters on the offensive line and a big-time receiver from last season's 5-5 team. Coach Kevin Callahan needs players to step up at all of those positions. QB John DiPasquale, DE Cornell King and LB John Schultzel, who had a school-record 86 tackles in '98, are the key returnees. Monmouth has a tough schedule, including a game at Lehigh.

3 ALBANY

Last year, coach Bob Ford's team was 10-1 in Division II. The offense remains primarily intact, and it welcomes back two all-conference linemen—RT Jason Barra and LG Billy Van Jura—and all-conference TE Steve Checksfield. The defense lost all but three starters. It will rely heavily on Division II All-American LB Mike Grever.

4 WAGNER

The secondary is the biggest question mark for coach Walt Hameline. Senior S Kevin Goode suffered a knee injury at the end of last season and didn't play this spring. Junior CB Justin Lockhart returns at one corner, but he was shaky at times. Wagner will play an attacking 4-4-3 defense to minimize the secondary's lack of depth. The team lost its starting QB and three starters on the line, but the receiving corps remains intact from last year's 7-3 team. Wagner will play only four home games.

5 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE

Coach Sal Cintorino's team will need a big year from

its defense to improve on last season's 4-6 record. Junior LB David Parker is probably Central Connecticut's best player, and he'll get help from sophomore LB Ian Whittingham and junior S Garfield White. The team lacks experience at quarterback and running back, so the hope is that QB Shawn Ramos, who has good speed and runs the option, can be successful leading the offense.

6 STONY BROOK

Stony Brook begins its inaugural season in Division I-AA after a 3-7 record last year in Division II. The Seawolves return 10 starters on offense, but their one loss is at quarterback. Coach Sam Kornhauser needs RB Ralph Menendez (901 yards last season) to have another big year. A bright spot from last season that should carry over is the pass defense, which ranked 15th in the nation at the Division II level.

7 SACRED HEART

This will be Sacred Heart's second season in Division I-AA; last year the team went 2-8. The offense has good skill position players, led by sophomore RB Khomei Cowan and senior TE Chris Wilkinson. This is a young team and needs to gain more experience before it can move up in the conference.

8 ST. FRANCIS, PA.

This will be a rebuilding year for the Red Flash in Dave Jaumotte's first year as coach. St. Francis was 0-10 last season and will play six of its 10 games this year on the road. The offensive and defensive lines remain a problem. The team needs to develop a running game to complement its passing attack. The brightest spot on the team is junior QB Jeremy Swords, a two-year starter who ranks among the top passers in school history. — Todd Fitzpatrick

PIONEER

Drake will have a tough time replacing RB Jason Grove, who broke nearly every school rushing record as a four-year starter. Otherwise, the defending champion Bulldogs return primarily intact. If the returning starters perform as expected and the passing game is on target, the Bulldogs should run away with the Pioneer title.

1 DRAKE

Most of Drake's offensive starters are back, including senior Solon Bell, who returns for his third season at quarterback. DE Mike Foster and S Tait Johnson anchor the defense. The biggest concerns for coach Rob Ash will be replacing the starting nose tackle from last season's 7-3 team and four-year starter Grove at tailback. The Bulldogs' toughest game will be the season finale at Western Illinois.

2 DAYTON

Dayton has 22 consecutive winning seasons, including 6-4 in '98. Coach Mike Kelly's team is loaded with seniors, but the team lacks experience in the backfield. The quarterback position is a big question mark. LB Chuck Kohstall is the team's top returning defender. Three of the team's four conference games are at home, and the toughest opponent—Drake—is on the road.

3 VALPARAISO

The Crusaders hope to build on their late-season

success in '98, when they finished with two shutouts while the offense scored 81 points. The defense should be strong again with the return of senior FS Eric Kenesie, a third-team I-AA All-American last year, senior CB Ray Hiller and junior S Brian Custy. A big challenge for coach Tom Horn will be restocking the offensive line, which lost four of five starters from last season's 5-6 team. Valpo's toughest game will be at Yale.

4 SAN DIEGO

San Diego has two of the conference's best players in senior QB Mike Stadler and senior WR Dylan Ching, the bright spots on last season's 2-8 team. Stadler has passed for 47 touchdowns during the past two seasons, with 24 going to Ching. The team's strength on defense is the secondary, which is led by senior CB Kaeo Gouveia. San Diego will be helped by a schedule that includes seven home games. Coach Kevin McGarry has new coordinators on offense and defense.

5 BUTLER

Coach Ken LaRose has a lot of holes to fill from last season's 4-6 team. He needs to replace two starting line-backers and six all-league performers on the offensive side. The team does return sophomore QB DeWayne Ewing, who passed for 1,318 yards last season, and junior Ryan Zimpleman, who led the nation in kickoff returns. Zimpleman will be Butler's top running back. — Todd Fitzpatrick

INDEPENDENTS

Hofstra has had a long winter to seethe over its omission from last year's I-AA playoffs. The Flying Dutchmen came within three seconds of defeating eventual national champion Massachusetts, so they'll have plenty of motivation this season. South Florida and Liberty are formidable, but expect Hofstra to be the best I-AA independent.

1 HOFSTRA

With 61 players returning, including 15 starters, from an 8-3 team, the Flying Dutchmen should improve on last year's record. Hofstra's offense is led by two senior All-America candidates—QB Giovanni Carmazzi, who has the size, speed and arm strength to be a pro prospect, and RB Vaughn Sanders. On defense, new coordinator Chip Garber leads a unit with great depth at linebacker, including senior All-American candidate Jim Emanuel. The secondary is a concern because it lacks experience.

2 SOUTH FLORIDA

Every defensive starter from last year's 8-3 team is back, but the offense has question marks. Coach Jim Leavitt must select a new quarterback. His options include Georgia transfer Mike Usry. A strong running game should help the new QB adjust. South Florida continues its aggressive plan for Division I-A status in 2001. It will play a I-A opponent for the first time when it travels to San Diego State this season.

3 LIBERTY

Senior RB Stacy Nobles, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards on last season's 5-6 squad, and Walt Heilig give coach Sam Rutigliano's team a strong running game. Experience won't be a problem in the secondary, where Liberty has senior starters at three of the four positions. The team must fill voids in the linebackers corps, offensive line and kicking game. The schedule is tough with road dates at Marshall, East Tennessee State, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech, Samford and South Florida, and home games with Appalachian State and Elon.

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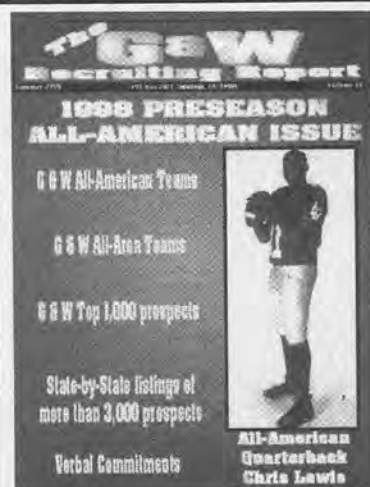
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Sporting News

4 CAL POLY-SAN LUIS OBISPO

Cal Poly will have a strong running game featuring senior RB Craig Young and a veteran defensive line led by E Steve Prejean. The Mustangs need to develop a passing game. QB Chad Henry is gone from last season's 3-8 squad, and senior Andy Jepson is set to assume the starting role. The schedule includes road dates with Northern Arizona, Northern Iowa, Hofstra and Youngstown State. Coach Larry Welsh and the Mustangs play host to perennial power Montana.

5 SOUTHERN UTAH

Southern Utah has been I-AA's top rushing team in two of the last three years, and the attack again should be formidable. QB Matt Cannon returns after rushing for 1,553 yards on last year's 5-6 team, and FB Brook Madsen is back after a one-year medical redshirt. Coach C. Ray Gregory's team opens the season with Western Montana (Division II) and Fort Lewis (NAIA), so the odds are good that the Thunderbirds' record will be above .500 for the first time since 1992.

6 ELON

Coach Al Seagraves' wishbone attack is led by QB Derrick Moore, the team's top rusher last season with 834 yards, and HB Steven Ferguson. The defense should be strong with the return of E Jerome Nelson, S Antwon Stevenson and LB Roger Allen, who was Elon's leading tackler on last season's 5-6 team. Games at Furman and Western Illinois and a home game with Hofstra should make or break Elon's season.

7 SAMFORD

Samford's top three running backs return from last year's 6-5 team, including senior Jerome Russell and junior Rashad Brewer. The new quarterback is Mitch Williams, a converted wide receiver. Coach Pete Hurt's squad has a solid linebackers corps, led by senior Fred Bishop. The secondary will have two new starters.

8 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

Coach David Dowd returns nine starters on offense and nine on defense from last year's 3-8 team. QB Brooks Combs, RB Vinson Blain and WR Ande Goldsmith are the keys to the offense. The schedule will be a little different this season, with first-time meetings with Elon, Jacksonville and Lenoir-Rhyne.

9 DAVIDSON

Davidson returns 15 starters, but coach Tim Landis must find a replacement for four-year starting QB Tom Dugan. Depth at most positions, especially on the offensive and defensive lines, is lacking. Davidson is coming off an 8-3 season—a school record for wins. An upgraded schedule includes games with Morehead State, Jacksonville, Georgetown and Austin Peay.

10 AUSTIN PEAY

The linebackers corps and the secondary will be the strengths for coach Bill Schmitz's team. All four defensive backs were either full-time starters on last season's 4-7 team or have started in the past, and two of the three starting linebackers are returning. The offensive and defensive lines have been depleted—DE Ted Skipper is the lone returning starter on either unit.

11 JACKSONVILLE

When coach Steve Gilbert's squad takes the field, expect a high-scoring affair. The offense, which averaged 30.1 points a game last season, returns running backs Greg Portee and John Underhill, and the entire offensive line. The team was 4-5 last season because of an inexperienced defense. The best defensive player is E Justin Yowell, who had 11 sacks and forced six fumbles last season.

12 MOREHEAD STATE

David Dinkins, who led the team to a 9-2 record in '98, is as good as any Division I-AA quarterback. Last year he became the third player in I-AA history to pass for 1,000 yards and rush for 1,000 yards in the same season. The offensive line and receiving corps has been depleted. LB Greg Brady, the team's second-leading tackler last season, and DT Jeremy Binakonsky, who made 6½ tackles for losses, are key returnees.

13 ST. MARY'S

Coach Mike Rasmussen welcomes back 17 starters, but after a 2-8 season no one has a lock on a starting job. QB Chad Thomas, who missed the final five games of '98, will be challenged by junior college transfer Casey Preston. If the Gaels don't improve their running game and defense, it likely won't matter who the quarterback is. —Todd Fitzpatrick

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TEAM	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
AIR FORCE	Villanova			Wyoming	at San Diego St.	at Navy	Utah		at Brigham Young	Army	UNLV	at Colorado St.	at New Mexico
AKRON	at Penn State	at Buffalo	Temple	at E. Michigan	at Ball St.	Ohio	Bowling Green	at Navy	W. Michigan	Miami, Ohio	Kent	at Auburn	
ALABAMA	at Vanderbilt	Houston	Louisiana Tech	Arkansas	at Florida		at Mississippi	Tennessee	So. Mississippi	Louisiana St.	Mississippi St.		
ALA.-BIRMINGHAM	at Missouri	at Virginia Tech	at Birmingham	Houston	NE Louisiana	Memphis	at Cincinnati	at Wake Forest	at Louisville	East Carolina	Louisiana Tech	at Tulane	
ARIZONA	at Penn St. (Aug. 28)	M. Tennessee St.	Stanford	at Washington St.		So. California	Texas-El Paso	Oregon	at UCLA	Washington	at Oregon St.		at Arizona St.
ARIZONA STATE	Texas Tech		New Mexico St.	at California	UCLA	at Notre Dame	at Washington	Washington St.	at Oregon	at So. California	Stanford		Arizona
ARKANSAS	at So. Methodist	NE Louisiana	at Little Rock	at Alabama	at Kentucky	M. Tennessee St.	(at Little Rock)		Auburn	at Mississippi	Tennessee	Mississippi St.	at Louisiana St.
ARKANSAS STATE	at Illinois	at Mississippi	at Memphis	Texas Christian	Sam Houston St.	at Utah St.	Idaho	Nevada	SW Louisiana	at Boise St.	Nevada	Houston	Navy (Dec. 4)
ARMY	Wake Forest	at Tulane	at Tulane	Ball St.	East Carolina	Louisville (Oct. 7)	at So. Mississippi	New Mexico St.		at Air Force	at Memphis		at Philadelphia
AUBURN	Appalachian State	Idaho	at Louisiana St.	Mississippi	at Tennessee	Mississippi St.	Florida		at Arkansas	Central Florida	at Georgia	Alabama	
BALL STATE	at Indiana	at Wisconsin	Toledo	at Army	Akron	at N. Illinois		at W. Michigan	Ohio	at E. Michigan	at Bowling Green	Central Michigan	
BAYLOR	at Boston College	UNLV	at Oklahoma	Texas	North Texas	at Texas A&M		Texas Tech	at Kansas St.	at Kansas	Colorado	Oklahoma St.	
BOISE STATE	at UCLA	Southern Utah	at Hawaii	New Mexico	Utah	E. Washington	at North Texas	Nevada	at Utah St.	Arkansas St.	New Mexico St.	Idaho	
BOSTON COLLEGE	at Baylor		at Navy	at Rutgers	Northeastern	at Temple	Pittsburgh	Miami, Fla.	at Syracuse		West Virginia	at Notre Dame	at Virginia Tech
BOWLING GREEN	at Pittsburgh	Tennessee Tech	at Marshall	at Kent	Toledo	Miami, Ohio	at Akron	at Ohio	Central Michigan		Ball St.	at Central Florida	(Nov. 26)
BRIGHAM YOUNG	Washington (Sept. 9)	Colorado St. (Sept. 16)	Colorado St. (Sept. 9)	Virginia	at Utah St. (Oct. 1)	California	at New Mexico	at UNLV	Air Force	at San Diego St.	at Wyoming	at Utah	
BUFFALO	Akron	at Connecticut	at Connecticut	at Ohio	N. Illinois	Central Michigan	at W. Michigan	Marshall	Kent	Hofstra	at Virginia	at Miami, Ohio	
CALIFORNIA	Rutgers	at Nebraska		Arizona St.	at Washington St.	at Brigham Young	at UCLA	Washington	So. California	at Oregon St.	Oregon	at Stanford	
CENTRAL FLORIDA	Purdue	at Florida	at Georgia Tech	at Georgia	E. Illinois	at Buffalo	Nichols St.	Louisiana Tech	E. Michigan	at Auburn	at M. Tenn. St.	Bowling Green	
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	E. Illinois (Sept. 2)	at Syracuse	at Purdue	Miami, Ohio	at W. Michigan	at Buffalo	N. Illinois	at So. Mississippi	at Bowling Green	Toledo	E. Michigan	at Ball St.	
CINCINNATI	Kent	Troy St.	Wisconsin	at Ohio St.		at Houston	Ala.-Birmingham	at So. Mississippi	at Miami, Ohio	Louisville	at East Carolina	Memphis	
CLEMSON	Marshall	Virginia		at Va. Tech (Sept. 23)	North Carolina	at North Carolina St.	at Maryland	Florida St.	at Wake Forest	Duke	at Georgia Tech	at South Carolina	Nebraska (Nov. 26)
COLORADO	Colorado St. (at Denver)	San Jose St.	Kansas	at Washington	Missouri	at Texas Tech	at Texas Tech	at Iowa St.	Oldham	at Kansas St.	at Baylor	Air Force	at UNLV
COLORADO STATE	Colorado. (at Denver)	at Brigham Young	at Brigham Young	Vanderbilt	New Mexico St.	at Fresno St.	San Diego St.	at Wyoming	Utah	at New Mexico	Wake Forest	at North Carolina	
DUKE		at East Carolina	Northwestern		Florida St.	at Virginia	Georgia Tech	North Carolina St.		at Clemson			
EAST CAROLINA	West Virginia	Duke	at South Carolina	Miami, Fla.	(at Jacksonville)	So. Mississippi		Tulane	at Houston	at Ala.-Birmingham	Cincinnati	North Carolina St.	
EASTERN MICHIGAN	(at Charlotte)				at Army								
FLORIDA	W. Michigan	at Michigan St.	at Miami, Ohio	Akron	at Louisville	W. Michigan	Ohio	at Toledo	at Central Florida	Ball St.	at Central Mich.	at N. Illinois	
FLORIDA STATE	Louisiana Tech	Georgia Tech	North Carolina St.	at North Carolina	Duke	Miami, Fla.	Wake Forest	at Clemson	at Virginia		Maryland	at Florida	
FRESNO STATE	Portland State	at Oregon St.	at UCLA	at Nevada	Texas Christian	Colorado St.	at So. Methodist	Texas-El Paso	at Tulsa	Rice	at Hawaii	San Jose St.	at Georgia Tech
GEORGIA	Utah St.	South Carolina		Central Florida	Louisiana St.	at Tennessee	at Vanderbilt	Kentucky	Florida	(at Jacksonville)	Auburn	at Mississippi	
GEORGIA TECH	at Navy	at Florida St.	Central Florida	Maryland (Sept. 30)		North Carolina	at Duke		North Carolina St.	at Virginia	Clemson	at Wake Forest	Georgia
HAWAII	So. California	E. Illinois	Boise St.	at So. Methodist	Texas-El Paso	Rice		at Tulsa	Texas Christian	at San Jose St.	Fresno St.	Navy	Washington St.
HOUSTON	Rice	Alabama	SW Louisiana	at Ala.-Birmingham		Cincinnati	at North Carolina	at Louisville	East Carolina	Tulane	at Louisiana St.	at Army	
IDAHO	E. Washington	at Auburn	Washington St.		at Wyoming	North Texas	at Arkansas St.	Utah St.	at New Mexico St.	at Nevada	at Montana	Boise St.	

TEAM	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
ILLINOIS	Arkansas St.	San Diego St.	at Louisville	Michigan St.	at Indiana		Minnesota	at Michigan	Penn St.	at Iowa	at Ohio St.	Northwestern	
INDIANA	Bail St.	North Carolina	Kentucky	at Penn St.	Illinois	Northwestern	at Wisconsin	at Iowa	Michigan		at Minnesota	Purdue	
IOWA	Nebraska	at Iowa St.	N. Illinois		at Michigan St.	Penn St.	at Northwestern	Indiana	at Ohio St.	Illinois	at Wisconsin	Minnesota	
IOWA STATE	Indiana St. (Sept. 2)	Iowa	at UNLV	Kansas St.	at Nebraska		at Missouri	Colorado	Texas	at Texas Tech	Oklahoma	at Kansas	
KANSAS	at Notre Dame (Aug. 28)	Cal St. Northridge	at Colorado	San Diego St.	So. Methodist	at Kansas St.	Utah St.	Missouri	Nebraska	Baylor	at Oklahoma St.	Iowa St.	
KANSAS STATE	at Cincinnati	Temple	Texas-El Paso	at Iowa St.	at Texas	Kansas	at Utah St.	at Oklahoma St.	Baylor	Colorado	at Nebraska	Missouri	
KENT	Louisville	Navy	at Pittsburgh	Bowling Green	at Ohio	at Toledo	Miami, Ohio	at N. Illinois	Buffalo	Marshall	at Akron	Tennessee	
KENTUCKY	San Jose St.	Connecticut	Auburn	Florida	Arkansas	at South Carolina	Louisiana St.	at Georgia	Mississippi	at Alabama	at Vanderbilt		Arkansas
LOUISIANA STATE	at Florida St. (Aug. 28)	North Texas	Alabama		at Georgia	Florida	at Kentucky	at Mississippi St.	Mississippi	NE Louisiana	Houston	at So. California	(Nov. 26)
LOUISIANA TECH	Texas A&M (Sept. 4)	Sam Houston St.	(at Birmingham)		at SW Louisiana		M. Tennessee St.	at Central Florida	at Toledo		at Ala.-Birm.		
LOUISVILLE	at Kentucky	Chattanooga	Illinois	Oklahoma	Eastern Michigan	at Army (Oct. 7)	at Memphis	Houston	Ala.-Birmingham	at Cincinnati		Southern Miss	
MARSHALL	at Clemson	Liberty	Bowling Green	Temple	Miami, Ohio		Toledo	at Buffalo	N. Illinois	at Kent	at W. Michigan	Ohio	
MARYLAND	at Temple (Sept. 2)	W. Carolina	West Virginia	at Ga. Tech (Sept. 30)		at Wake Forest	Clemson	North Carolina	Duke	at North Carolina St.	at Florida St.	Virginia	
MEMPHIS	Mississippi	at Mississippi St.	Arkansas St.	at Tennessee	Missouri	at Ala.-Birmingham	Louisville	at Tulane	So. Mississippi	at Cincinnati	Army	at Cincinnati	
MIAMI, Fla.	Ohio St. (Aug. 29)		Penn St.	at East Carolina		at Florida St.	Temple	at Boston College	West Virginia	at Pittsburgh	at Virginia Tech	Rutgers	Syracuse
MIAMI, Ohio	Florida A&M												
MICHIGAN	at Northwestern	at West Virginia	E. Michigan	at Central Michigan	Marshall	at Bowling Green	at Kent		Cincinnati	Akron	at Ohio	Buffalo	
MICHIGAN STATE	Notre Dame	Rice	at Syracuse	at Wisconsin	Purdue	at Michigan St.		Illinois	at Indiana	Northwestern	at Penn St.	Ohio St.	
MID. TENNESSEE ST.	Oregon (Sept. 2)	E. Michigan	at Notre Dame	at Illinois	Iowa	Michigan	at Purdue	at Wisconsin	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	at Northwestern	Penn St.	
MINNESOTA	at Mississippi St.	at Arizona	Wofford	at SW Louisiana	Troy St.	at Arkansas	at Louisiana Tech	Ohio St.	at NE Louisiana	Tennessee-Martin	Central Florida	East Tennessee St.	
MISSISSIPPI	Ohio	NE Louisiana	Illinois St.	at Auburn	at Northwestern	Wisconsin	at Alabama	Louisiana St.	Purdue	at Louisiana St.	Indiana	at Iowa	
MISSISSIPPI STATE	at Memphis	Arkansas St.	Vanderbilt	at South Carolina	at South Carolina	Tulane	Alabama	Louisiana St.	at Louisiana St.	Arkansas	at Alabama	Georgia	at Miss. St. (Nov. 25)
MISSOURI	M. Tennessee St.	Memphis	Oklahoma St.	Nebraska	at Vanderbilt	at Colorado	Iowa St.	at Kansas	Texas Tech	Kentucky (Nov. 4)	at Alabama	at Arkansas	Mississippi (Nov. 25)
NAVY	Ala.-Birmingham	W. Michigan	Boston College	at Rice	at Memphis	at Colorado		Akron	at Notre Dame	at Rutgers	Tulane	at Hawaii	Army (Dec. 4)
NEBRASKA	Georgia Tech	at Kent			at West Virginia	Air Force							(at Philadelphia)
NEBRASKA	at Iowa	California	So. Mississippi	at Missouri	Oklahoma St.	Iowa St.		at Texas	at Kansas	Texas A&M	Kansas St.		at Colorado (Nov. 26)
NEVADA	Oregon St.	at Colorado St.	at Oregon	Fresno St.	UNLV	at New Mexico St.		at Boise St.	North Texas	Idaho	at Arkansas St.	Utah St.	
NEW MEXICO	at Texas-El Paso	New Mexico St.	N. Arizona	at Boise St.	at San Diego St.	Brigham Young		UNLV	Colorado St.	Colorado St.	at Utah	at Wyoming	Air Force
NEW MEXICO STATE	New Mexico Highlands	at New Mexico	at Arizona St.	at Texas-El Paso	at Colorado St.	Nevada		at Army	Idaho	at Utah St.	at Boise St.	North Texas	
NORTH CAROLINA	(Sept. 2)	at Indiana		Florida St.	at Clemson	at Georgia Tech	Houston	Furman	Wake Forest		North Carolina St.	Duke	
NORTH CAROLINA ST.	at Texas (Aug. 28)	William & Mary	at Florida St.	at Wake Forest		Clemson	Virginia	at Duke	at Georgia Tech	Maryland	N. Carolina	at East Carolina	
NE LOUISIANA	South Carolina (Sept. 4)	at Minnesota	Arkansas	Northwestern St.	at Ala.-Birmingham	at Utah	Wyoming	at SW Louisiana	M. Tennessee St.	at Louisiana Tech	at Tulsa		
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	Nicholls St.		(at Little Rock)								Nov. 11, at Charlotte		
NORTH TEXAS	W. Illinois (Sept. 2)	at Vanderbilt	at Iowa	W. Michigan	at Buffalo	Bail St.	at Central Michigan	Kent St.	at Marshall	at Toledo	at Toledo	E. Michigan	
NORTH TEXAS	UNLV (Sept. 2)	at Louisiana St.	at Texas Tech	at Texas Tech	at Baylor	at Idaho	Boise St.	Arkansas St.	at Nevada	at TCU	at TCU	at New Mexico St.	Utah St.
NORTHWESTERN	Miami, Ohio	Texas Christian	at Duke	at Purdue	Minnesota	at Indiana	Iowa	Wisconsin	at Michigan	Michigan St.	Michigan St.	at Illinois	
NOTRE DAME	Kansas (Aug. 28)	at Purdue	Michigan St.		Oklahoma	Arizona St.	So. California	Navy	at Tennessee	at Tennessee	at Pittsburgh	Boston College	at Stanford
OHIO	at Michigan												
OHIO STATE	at Minnesota	N. Iowa	at Ohio St.	Buffalo	Kent	at Akron	at E. Michigan	Bowling Green	at Ball St.		Miami, Ohio	at Marshall	
OKLAHOMA	Miami, Fla. (Aug. 29)	UCLA	Ohio	Cincinnati	Wisconsin	Purdue	at Penn St.	at Minnesota	Iowa	at Michigan St.	Illinois	at Marshall	
OKLAHOMA		Indiana St.	Baylor	at Louisville	at Notre Dame	Texas		Texas A&M	at Colorado	Missouri	at Iowa St.	at Texas Tech	Oklahoma St.

TEAM	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
OKLAHOMA STATE	SW Louisiana at Mich. St. (Sept. 2)	Tulsa Texas-El Paso	at Mississippi St. Nevada	So. California	at Nebraska at Washington	Texas Tech at UCLA		Kansas St. at Arizona	at Texas A&M Arizona St.	Texas Washington St.	Kansas at California	at Baylor Oregon St.	at Oklahoma
OREGON STATE	at Nevada Arizona (Aug. 28)	Fresno St. Pittsburgh	Georgia Southern at Miami, Fla.	Indiana	at So. California	Washington at Iowa	at Stanford Ohio St.	UCLA at Purdue	at Washington St. at Illinois	California Minnesota	Arizona Michigan	at Oregon at Michigan St.	
PENN STATE	Akron												
PITTSBURGH	Bowling Green at Central Florida	at Penn St. Notre Dame	Kent Central Michigan	Northwestern	Temple at Michigan	Syracuse (Oct. 7) at Ohio St.	at Boston College Michigan St.	at Rutgers Penn St.	Virginia Tech at Minnesota	Miami, Fla. Wisconsin	Notre Dame at Indiana		at W. Virginia
PURDUE	at Houston	at Michigan	at Texas	Navy	at Tulsa	at Hawaii	San Jose St.	Texas Christian	at So. Methodist	at Fresno St.	Texas-El Paso		
RICE	at California	Texas	at So. California	Boston College	at Wake Forest	Virginia Tech	at West Virginia	Pittsburgh	at Temple	Navy	Syracuse	at Miami, Fla.	Wyoming
RUTGERS	South Florida	at Illinois	at So. California	at Kansas	Air Force	New Mexico	at Colorado St.	at Utah	at Rice	Bright Young			
SAN DIEGO STATE	at Louisiana St.	at Colorado	St. Mary's (Calif.)	Tulsa	at Stanford	at Texas Christian	at Rice	So. Methodist	at Texas-El Paso	Hawaii		at Fresno St.	
SAN JOSE STATE	at Hawaii	at Tulane	San Diego St.	at Oregon	Oregon St.	at Arizona	at Notre Dame	Stanford	at California	Arizona St.	Cal St. Northridge	UCLA	La. Tech (Nov. 26)
SO. CALIFORNIA	at Arkansas	at Georgia	East Carolina	Hawaii	at Kansas	at Texas-El Paso	Fresno St.	at San Jose St.	Rice	at Texas Christian	Florida		
SO. METHODIST	at North Carolina St.			at Mississippi St.	Mississippi	Kentucky	at Arkansas (at Little Rock)	Vanderbilt	at Tennessee				
SOUTH CAROLINA													
SO. MISSISSIPPI	Tulane (Sept. 6)	Northwestern St.	at Nebraska	at Texas A&M		at East Carolina	Army	Cincinnati	at Alabama	at Memphis	SW Louisiana	at Louisville	
SW LOUISIANA	at Oklahoma St.	Texas Tech	at Houston	M. Tennessee St.	Louisiana Tech	at Washington St.	at Tulane	NE Louisiana	at Arkansas St.	at So. Mississippi	at So. Mississippi	at Norfolk	
STANFORD	at Texas	Washington St.	at Arizona	UCLA	San Jose St.		Oregon St.	at So. California	at Washington		at Arizona St.	California	Notre Dame at Miami, Fla.
STRACUSE	at Toledo (Sept. 2)	Central Michigan	Michigan	West Virginia	Tulane	at Pittsburgh (Oct. 7)	at Virginia Tech	at West Virginia	Rutgers	Temple	at Rutgers	Virginia Tech	
TEMPLE	Maryland (Sept. 2)	at Kansas St.	at Akron	Memphis	Auburn	Boston College	at Miami, Fla.	at Alabama	South Carolina	Notre Dame	at Arkansas	at Kentucky	Vanderbilt
TENNESSEE	Wyoming	at Rutgers	Rice	at Baylor	Kansas St.	Oklahoma		Nebraska	at Iowa St.		Texas Tech		at Texas A&M (Nov. 26)
TEXAS	N.C. State (Aug. 28)					(at Dallas)							
TEXAS A&M	Stanford (Sept. 4)		Tulsa	So. Mississippi	at Texas Tech	Baylor	Kansas	at Oklahoma	Oklahoma St.	at Nebraska	at Missouri		Texas (Nov. 26)
TEXAS CHRISTIAN	at Louisiana Tech	at Northwestern		at Arkansas St.	at Fresno St.	San Jose St.	Tulsa	at Rice	at Hawaii	So. Methodist	North Texas	Texas-El Paso	
TEXAS-EL PASO	New Mexico	at Oregon	at Kansas St.	New Mexico St.	at Hawaii	So. Methodist	at Arizona	Fresno St.	San Jose St.	Tulsa	at Rice	at Texas Christian	
TEXAS TECH	at Arizona St.	at SW Louisiana	North Texas		Texas A&M	at Oklahoma St.	Colorado	at Baylor	at Missouri	Iowa St.	at Texas	Oklahoma	
TOLEDO	Syracuse (Sept. 2)		at Ball St.	Massachusetts	at Bowling Green	Kent	at Marshall	E. Michigan	Louisiana Tech	at Central Michigan	N. Illinois	W. Michigan	
TULANE	at S. Miss (Sept. 6)	So. Methodist	Army	at Texas A&M	at Syracuse	at Mississippi	SW Louisiana	at East Carolina	Memphis	at Houston	at Navy	Ala.-Birmingham	
TULSA	SW Missouri St.	at Oklahoma St.	at Texas A&M	at San Jose St.	Rice	at Arizona	California	Hawaii	Fresno St.	at Texas-El Paso	NE Louisiana	So. Methodist	
UCLA	Boise St.	at Ohio St.	Fresno St.	at Stanford	at Arizona St.	Oregon		at Oregon St.	Arizona		Washington	at So. California	
UNLV	at North Texas	at Baylor	Iowa St.	Utah	at Nevada	at Wyoming		Bright Young	at New Mexico	Wyoming	at Air Force	San Diego St.	Colorado St.
UTAH	at Washington St.		Utah St.	at UNLV	at Boise St.	NE Louisiana	at Air Force	San Diego St.	at Colorado St.	New Mexico	New Mexico	at Brigham Young	at Brigham Young
UTAH STATE	at Georgia	S.F. Austin	at Utah		BYU (Oct. 1)	Arkansas St.	at Kansas St.	at Idaho	Boise St.	New Mexico St.	Kentucky	at Nevada	at North Texas
VANDERBILT	Alabama	N. Illinois	at Mississippi	at Duke	Mississippi St.	The Citadel	Georgia	at South Carolina		at Florida	Buffalo	at Maryland	at Tennessee
VIRGINIA	at North Carolina	at Clemson	Wake Forest	at Brigham Young	Virginia Tech	Duke	at North Carolina St.		Florida St.	Georgia Tech	at Buffalo	at Temple	Boston College (Nov. 26)
VIRGINIA TECH	James Madison	Ala.-Birmingham		Clemson (Sept. 23)	at Virginia	at Rutgers	Syracuse		at Pittsburgh	at West Virginia	Miami, Fla.		
WAKE FOREST		at Army	at Virginia	North Carolina St.	Rutgers	Maryland	at Florida St.	Ala.-Birmingham	Clemson	at North Carolina	at Duke	Georgia Tech	
WASHINGTON		at Army (Sept. 9)	Air Force	Colorado	Oregon	at Oregon St.	Arizona St.	at California	Stanford	at Arizona	at UCLA	Washington St.	at UCLA
WASHINGTON STATE	Utah	at Stanford	Idaho	Arizona	California	SW Louisiana		at Arizona St.	Oregon St.	at Oregon	So. California	at Washington	at Hawaii
WESTERN MICHIGAN	at Florida	Youngstown St.	at Missouri	at N. Illinois	Central Michigan	at E. Michigan	Buffalo	Ball St.	at Akron		Marshall	at Toledo	
WEST VIRGINIA	East Carolina (at Charlotte)	Miami, Ohio	at Maryland	at Syracuse	Navy		Rutgers	Temple	at Miami, Fla.	Virginia Tech	at Boston College		Pittsburgh
WISCONSIN	Murray St.	Ball St.	at Cincinnati	Michigan	at Ohio St.	at Minnesota	Indiana	Michigan St.	at Northwestern	at Purdue	Iowa	New Mexico	
WYOMING	at Tennessee	Weber St.		at Air Force	Idaho	UNLV	at NE Louisiana	Colorado St.	at Northwestern	at Utah	Brigham Young	at San Diego St.	

Bowl Schedule

Bowl	Date	Site	TV	Matchup
Las Vegas Bowl	Saturday, Dec. 18	Las Vegas	ESPN	WAC champion vs. at-large team
Mobile Alabama Bowl	Wednesday, Dec. 22	Mobile, Ala.	ESPN	Conference USA No. 2 vs. WAC No. 2
Aloha Bowl	Saturday, Dec. 25	Honolulu	ABC	Pac-10 No. 4 vs. Big East No. 4 (tentative)
Oahu Bowl	Saturday, Dec. 25	Honolulu	ABC	Pac-10 No. 5 vs. at-large team
Motor City Bowl	Monday, Dec. 27	Pontiac, Mich.	ESPN2	Mid-American champion vs. at-large team
Alamo Bowl	Tuesday, Dec. 28	San Antonio	ESPN	Big Ten No. 4 vs. Big 12 No. 4
Music City Bowl	Wednesday, Dec. 29	Nashville	ESPN	Southeastern No. 6 vs. at-large team
Holiday Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 30	San Diego	ESPN	Pac-10 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3
Humanitarian Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 30	Boise, Idaho	ESPN2	Big West champion vs. Conference USA No. 3
Micron/PC Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 30	Miami	Raycom/Turner Sports	Big Ten No. 6 vs. Atlantic Coast No. 4
Peach Bowl	Thursday, Dec. 30	Atlanta	ESPN	Atlantic Coast No. 3 vs. Southeastern No. 5
Insight.com Bowl	Friday, Dec. 31	Tucson	ESPN	Big East No. 3 or Notre Dame vs. Big 12 No. 5
Independence Bowl	Friday, Dec. 31	Shreveport, La.	ESPN	Big 12 No. 4 or 6 vs. Southeastern No. 7
Liberty Bowl	Friday, Dec. 31	Memphis	ESPN	Conference USA champion vs. at-large team
Sun Bowl	Friday, Dec. 31	El Paso, Texas	CBS	Pac-10 No. 3 vs. Big Ten No. 5
Citrus Bowl	Saturday, Jan. 1	Orlando	ABC	Big Ten No. 2 vs. Southeastern No. 2
Cotton Bowl	Saturday, Jan. 1	Dallas	Fox	Big 12 No. 2 vs. Southeastern No. 3
Gator Bowl	Saturday, Jan. 1	Jacksonville, Fla.	NBC	Atlantic Coast No. 2 vs. Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame
Outback Bowl	Saturday, Jan. 1	Tampa	ESPN	Southeastern No. 3 vs. Big Ten No. 3
Orange Bowl	Saturday, Jan. 1	Miami	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Rose Bowl	Saturday, Jan. 1	Pasadena, Calif.	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Fiesta Bowl	Sunday, Jan. 2	Tempe, Ariz.	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Sugar Bowl	Monday, Jan. 4	New Orleans	ABC	Bowl Championship Series No. 1 vs No. 2

Coaching changes

Division I-A

School	Former coach	New coach	New coach's former position
Auburn	Bill Oliver	Tommy Tuberville	Mississippi coach
Baylor	Dave Roberts	Kevin Steele	Carolina Panthers assistant
Clemson	Tommy West	Tommy Bowden	Tulane coach
Colorado	Rick Neuheisel	Gary Barnett	Northwestern coach
Duke	Fred Goldsmith	Carl Franks	Florida assistant
Hawaii	Fred vonAppen	June Jones	San Diego Chargers coach
Iowa	Hayden Fry	Kirk Ferentz	Baltimore Ravens assistant
Louisiana Tech	Gary Crowton	Jack Bicknell Jr.	Louisiana Tech assistant
Miami, Ohio	Randy Walker	Terry Hoepfner	Miami, Ohio assistant
Middle Tennessee St.	James Donnelly	Andy McCollum	Baylor assistant
Mississippi	Tommy Tuberville	David Cutcliffe	Tennessee assistant
UNLV	Jeff Horton	John Robinson	retired
Northeast Louisiana	Ed Zaunbrecher	Bobby Keasler	McNeese State coach
Northwestern	Gary Barnett	Randy Walker	Miami, Ohio coach
Oklahoma	John Blake	Bob Stoops	Florida assistant
Oregon State	Mike Riley	Dennis Erickson	Seattle Seahawks coach
South Carolina	Brad Scott	Lou Holtz	retired
SW Louisiana	Nelson Stokley	Jerry Baldwin	Louisiana State assistant
Tulane	Tommy Bowden	Chris Scelfo	Georgia assistant
Washington	Jim Lambright	Rick Neuheisel	Colorado coach

Division I-AA

School	Former coach	New coach	New coach's former position
Connecticut	Skip Holtz	Randy Edsall	Georgia Tech assistant
Fordham	Ken O'Keefe	Dave Clawson	Villanova assistant
James Madison	Alex Wood	Mickey Matthews	Georgia assistant
Idaho State	Tom Walsh	Larry Lewis	Washington State assistant
McNeese State	Bobby Keasler	Kirby Bruchhaus	McNeese State assistant
Mississippi Valley St.	Larry Dorsey	Latral Jones	Arkansas-Pine Bluff assistant
Morgan State	Stump Mitchell	Stanley Mitchell	Morgan State assistant
New Hampshire	Bill Bowes	Sean McDonnell	New Hampshire assistant
Nicholls State	Darren Barbier	Daryl Daye	Liberty assistant
Norfolk State	Darnell Moore	Maurice Forte	Private business
St. Francis, Pa.	Kevin Doherty	David A. Jaumotte	Ashland (Ohio) coach
St. Peter's	Mark Collins	Rob Stern	Hudson Catholic High (Jersey City, N.J.)
SW Missouri St.	Del Miller	Randy Ball	Western Illinois coach
Stephen F. Austin	John Pearce	Mike Santiago	McNeese State assistant
Virginia Military	Ted Cain	Cal McCombs	Air Force assistant
Western Illinois	Randy Ball	Don Patterson	Iowa assistant

Final 1998 polls

TSN	ESPN/USA Today	Associated Press
1. Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
2. Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State
3. Florida State	Florida State	Florida State
4. Arizona	Arizona	Arizona
5. Florida	Wisconsin	Florida
6. Wisconsin	Florida	Wisconsin
7. UCLA	Tulane	Tulane
8. Tulane	UCLA	UCLA
9. Michigan	Kansas State	Georgia Tech
10. Texas A&M	Air Force	Kansas State
11. Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Texas A&M
12. Kansas State	Michigan	Michigan
13. Georgia	Texas A&M	Air Force
14. Arkansas	Georgia	Georgia
15. Penn State	Penn State	Texas
16. Air Force	Texas	Arkansas
17. Virginia	Arkansas	Penn State
18. Texas	Virginia	Virginia
19. Syracuse	Virginia Tech	Nebraska
20. Miami Fla.	Nebraska	Miami Fla.
21. Virginia Tech	Miami Fla.	Missouri
22. Purdue	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
23. Notre Dame	Purdue	Virginia Tech
24. Missouri	Syracuse	Purdue
25. Nebraska	Missouri	Syracuse

The Sporting News

COLLEGE

FOOTBALL

survey



"Yo, it's Fly. The boss wants to know what you think about college football and this yearbook. Fly's talkin' about the inside scoop on the pigskin preppies from 'The Bible of Sports.' Tell *The Sporting News* what you think and you get a shot at some great stuff."

All you have to do is answer the following questions and return this survey to the address on the next page by October 1, 1999, and you'll be entered in a drawing for one of five free, one-year subscriptions to *The Sporting News* OR one of 25 copies of *The Sporting News*' ultimate trivia book, "So, You Think You Know Sports."

"Get goin'. I'll see you in the sports pages."

1. Going into the 1999 season, which Division I-A conference do you feel is the strongest?
☐ ACC ☐ Big East ☐ Big Ten
☐ Big 12 ☐ Mountain West
☐ Pac-10 ☐ SEC ☐ WAC
2. Which conference do you follow most closely?
☐ ACC ☐ Big East
☐ Big Ten ☐ Big 12 ☐ Big West
☐ Conference USA ☐ MAC
☐ Mountain West ☐ Pac-10
☐ SEC ☐ WAC
3. The first year of the Bowl Championship Series produced a "national championship" matchup of Tennessee vs. Florida State. Did the BCS system match the two best teams in the country in the Fiesta Bowl last season?
☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Do you favor a playoff to determine college football's Division I-A national champion?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4a. If yes, how many teams should be involved?
☐ 2 ☐ 4 ☐ 8 ☐ 16
5. How do you feel about the current number of bowl games?
☐ There are too many
☐ There aren't enough
☐ There are just the right number
6. Do you follow the NFL as much as college football?
☐ Yes ☐ No
7. When should college players be allowed to enter the NFL draft?
☐ After four college seasons
☐ After three college seasons
☐ Whenever they like
8. Most strong programs schedule at least one non-conference game against a weak opponent. If you were the athletic director, how many "creampuff" games would you schedule?
☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4
9. Where do you get most of your college football information?
☐ *The Sporting News*
☐ Other magazines
☐ Newspapers
☐ Television
☐ Radio ☐ Internet
☐ School-specific publications
10. Is this your first purchase of *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 10a. If not, how many times have you bought previously?
☐ 1 ☐ 2-3 ☐ 4-5
☐ 6-10 ☐ over 10
11. Ideally, when would you like to purchase *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
☐ June 15 ☐ June 30
☐ July 15 ☐ July 31
12. What factors influenced you to buy *TSN's College Football* yearbook? (Check all that apply.)
☐ Overall editorial content
☐ Graphic presentation
☐ Cover ☐ Price
☐ Name recognition
13. Which do you prefer?
☐ Coverage of the entire nation
☐ Coverage of my favorite conference
14. If it came at the expense of our Division I-AA coverage, would you like to see us devote more space to Division I-A conferences?
☐ Yes ☐ No

15. If we could devote more or less space to certain sections (without changing the overall number of pages), how would you like to see that space used?
- | More pages | Fewer pages | Perfect as is | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| — | — | — | Feature articles |
| — | — | — | League previews |
| — | — | — | Scouting the nation and conferences |
| — | — | — | Predictions (conference races, All-America teams, etc.) |
| — | — | — | Division I-AA |
16. Would you like to see more coverage of Divisions II and III?
☐ Yes ☐ No
17. Would you like to see more coverage of high school recruiting?
☐ Yes ☐ No
18. Anything else we should change to improve *TSN's College Football* yearbook?

19. Overall, how would you rate this yearbook?
☐ Excellent ☐ Very good
☐ Good ☐ Average
☐ Below average
20. Do you refer to *TSN's College Football* yearbook throughout the season?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 20a. If yes, how often?
☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly
☐ Constantly
21. How many other people read your copy of *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
☐ 3 ☐ 4-5 ☐ 6-10
☐ 11-15 ☐ More than 15
22. Which other yearbooks from *The Sporting News* do you read? (Check all that apply.)
☐ Pro Football
☐ Pro Football Draft Guide
☐ Fantasy Football
☐ Baseball
☐ Fantasy Baseball
☐ Pro Basketball
☐ College Basketball
☐ Hockey
☐ Racing
23. If it were possible to order all or some of *The Sporting News* yearbooks as a package and have them delivered to you by mail, would you be interested?
☐ Yes ☐ No
24. Do you buy yearbooks from other companies?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 24a. If yes, which ones?
☐ Athlon
☐ Lindy's
☐ Street & Smith's
☐ Preview
☐ Other

25. Do you read *The Sporting News* weekly magazine?
☐ Yes ☐ No
26. Have you ever seen or used *The Sporting News* website (sportingnews.com)?
☐ Yes ☐ No
27. How many college football games do you attend in a season?
☐ 0 ☐ 1-3 ☐ 4-6
☐ 7-10 ☐ More than 10
28. Is your favorite team in any of the four professional sports outside your local market?
☐ Yes ☐ No
29. Have you ever traveled to attend a sporting event outside your local market?
☐ Yes ☐ No
30. Do you wear merchandise featuring your teams' logos?
☐ Yes ☐ No
31. Have you ever watched a sporting event on pay-per-view?
☐ Yes ☐ No
32. Which credit card do you prefer using?
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express
☐ Discover
☐ Other _____
33. Please check the category that includes your age.
☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24
☐ 25-29 ☐ 30-34
☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54
☐ 55-64 ☐ Over 64
34. Are you...
☐ Male? ☐ Female?
35. Are you...
☐ Married? ☐ Single?
36. Did you attend or graduate from college?
☐ Yes ☐ No
37. Which of the following categories contains your approximate total household income, before taxes, for 1998? (Please include total earnings for all members of your household from all sources.)
☐ Under \$20,000
☐ \$20,000-\$29,999
☐ \$30,000-\$39,999
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999
☐ \$50,000-\$74,999
☐ \$75,000-\$99,999
☐ \$100,000-\$199,999
☐ Over \$200,000

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